

INSIDE

SOCCER

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BRANKO CULINA: 'I'M LEAVING AUSTRALIA'



**SPIRIT V
SYDNEY
OLYMPIC
PAGE 7**

OLYMPIC COACH PUTS FAMILY FIRST

In an exclusive interview with Greg Blake, Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina has revealed that this season will almost certainly be his last as a coach in Australia.

Culina wants to spend more time with his family, specifically son Jason, currently with Dutch giants Ajax Amsterdam, when his Sydney Olympic contract is up.

The full interview is on page three, where he talks not only about his family but also his disappointment at not being offered a position in the national coaching structure, a role he says was earmarked for him under the previous Soccer Australia administration.

Speaking after Friday night's 1-0 win over Northern Spirit, Olympic's coach reiterated the point to Aidan Ormond that he feels he does not have a future in this country.

"My family's future is more important than my own. What can I achieve here?" asked Culina.

"It's more satisfying to see my kids prosper - my family, and in particular Jason, probably need me more than I need Australian Soccer.

"I am quite prepared to chuck it all in. My contract is up at the end of the season, as is my other son Dean's at Northern Spirit, ... we will be free agents then.

"So Dean has the choice of coming with us or staying. Look, I love the game and who knows what will happen in the future but it's a matter of getting your priorities right.

"I am a father first and everything else second. 'Blakey' (Greg Blake) knows me but unfortunately

not too many other people do. You hear so many comments that aren't true."

Growing up in Melbourne without his parents, Culina, 42, was raised by his grandparents, and this has seemingly shaped his views. "I've had to do it hard," reflected Culina.

"Nothing was handed to me on a plate. I lacked guidance when I was younger and I'm determined to be there for Jason if he needs me."

He is also dismayed by his public persona, a persona he insists he had to create in the media to be noticed.

"It's like being an actor. Off-screen you are a different person to what you are in the spotlight. I had to say some things in the past to get noticed, but it wasn't really me ... I am now looking for an inner-peace."

Sydney Olympic is, ironically, flying high in the NSL, unbeaten after five rounds.

Culina said that his side had trained all week in specific preparation for the game.

"We all knew what we had to do. I gave everyone tasks on a Spirit player when we did not have the ball. Knowing what they are capable of and what we can do, it was all tailored to that.

"I made one slight change just prior to kick-off, with Mendez coming in for Zorbas.

"Plus were looking for two extra players on the park - enthusiasm and courage, and they helped us enormously.

"The players and I do everything ourselves," concluded Culina.



**PLUS
DALAI LAMA
HELPS
FALCONS
WIN!
PAGE 22**

SPECIAL ALL-AUSSIE ISSUE CELEBRATING THE YES REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN

INSIDE SOCCER: YOUR QUALITY WEEKLY DEVOTED TO AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

Ronaldo v Kewell: A great tour looms

Frank Farina's Socceroo squad for the upcoming Brazil tour represents the new generation of Australian soccer, and one that has enough skill and spirit to get us to Japan/Korea 2002.

The squad is a nice blend of youth and experience. However, the era of hitherto skipper Alex Tobin now looks like being over after the defender was left out of Farina's plans. The Force defender is still clinging on to the hope that he can be chosen in the future, but that remains a long shot.

Mark Schwarzer's absence is more related to 'personal' matters rather than the reported claim that he wanted to play in at least one game.

His wife has just given birth and the keeper has come to an arrangement with Frank Farina. His place is taken by the irrepressible Zeljko 'Spider' Kalac.

Joe Simunic was not picked largely because this most prodigious of talents is still not match fit after a long lay off through injury.

Simunic will be picked by Farina for the Chile four-team tournament tour in February.

For once he will have to wait for us. So if Croatia does not get in his ear (again!) we should see him finally pull on the green and gold in February.

With Hayden Foxe being given the captaincy of the Olyroos in Tunisia, a surprise inclusion is Steven Laybutt in place of the injured Tony Popovic, but it is good to see the likes of Paul Agostino and Premier League Aussie Richard Johnson.

The rest of the squad is largely as we expected - packed with talent, from Kewell (who will play) to Viduka, Lazaridis, Moore Okon and Zelic.

The latter is in the frame for the captaincy, together with Bosnich.

Bosnich's gregarious and quintessentially 'Aussie' personality would be good for team morale, and media, but his penchant for the good life and controversy on the field often can get him into trouble.

On the other hand, Ned Zelic is a model professional and a very reliable personality - fatherhood has had a further maturing influence on him. He is experienced and knows how the national team works.

Both would be excellent captains - who know how to handle the media - but our tip is for skipper Bosnich with vice-captain Zelic.

The 18-man squad is **AGOSTINO, BOSNICH, CORICA, EMERTON, JOHNSON, KALAC, KEWELL, LAYBUTT, LAZARIDIS, MOORE, MORI, MUSCAT, OKON, SKOKO, TIATTO, VIDMAR, VIDUKA, ZELIC**

The Brazilians have named a squad that reflects their preparation for Sydney 2000. The inclusion of Ronaldo and Denilson an early indication that, together with Rivaldo, they could be involved in the one major tournament Brazil has yet to win, the Olympics.

Their squad is: **Keepers: RENATO, SILVIO, ALEXANDRE** **Defenders: MANCINI, MICHEL, DEDE, ATHIRSON, CRIS, ALVARO, FABIO, LUIS ALBERTO, MILTON DO O, Midfielders: MARCON PAULO, FABIANO, MOZART, ADRIANO, FELIPE, ALEX, DENILSON, Strikers: RONALDINHO, RONALDO, FABIO JUNIOR WARLEY.**



Likely new Socceroo captain, Manchester United's Mark Bosnich



Ronaldo and teammates after Copa America

S-NEWS

INSIDE SOCCER'S
AUSTRALIAN NEWS
AND GOSSIP

SIMPLY THE BEST

"The goal? In my soccer history it's one of the best I have seen. But for Wynton he does that all the time at training, he is unbelievable." Those are the words of The Kingz' Levent Osman. They are still raving about 'that' goal across the Tasman when Kingz played Newcastle Breakers.

WANNA BE ON TV?

Carlton members and supporters are urged to congregate behind the Beer Garden at Olympic Park at the next home game against Canberra Cosmos, as the area will be filmed for a Carlton TV commercial. Please bring your banners, flags, and be wearing your Carlton gear to make sure the vision is colourful. The commercial will air on SBS English Soccer on Monday nights.

KEY APPOINTMENT

As well as naming his first squad for the Socceroos, national coach Frank Farina, has also named his team's right-hand person to look after all matters associated with the national team, including the coaching staff. From the outset of his appointment, Frank has said this position is important to him as "things off the park have to be right". Marketing and Communications Manager at the NSW Federation, Bonnie Mersiades, will join Farina at Soccer Australia from next week. Prior to working with NSWFS, she previously worked with Frank at the Brisbane Strikers, co-wrote his book on his playing career, has been very active in junior soccer and was formerly a senior executive in the public sector. IS is also pleased to report that she is another Australian who supports the YES campaign in this weekend's Republic referendum.

HOPELESS CHANNEL 9

On the morning of the announcement that superstar Ronaldo was to come to Australia (last Friday), Channel 9's morning show's 8am main news featured in its sports wrap some small stories and finished off not with the Ronaldo news - a positive sport story - but with the wholly negative piece on Patrick Viera's fine for spitting. Typical Channel 9 nonsense.

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY

The top players of the New South Wales Soccer Federation's elite youth competition will be part of the on-field action at the Australia v Brazil game next month. The players - from the top Under 11 teams in this season's competition - will participate in a football skills relay race to take place at half-time in the match at Stadium Australia on 14 November. "The kids are thrilled that IMG has given us this opportunity," said NSW Federation President, Peter Gray.

FLYING IN STYLE

Word has it that Spirit's Clayton Zane left Sydney yesterday for Norway, not by Qantas but in a private jet hired by his new Norwegian club Molde. And those Olympic players seen dancing on the podium at Berry Street nightclub last Friday night certainly looked like they were enjoying themselves, proving their talents aren't just on the park!

REFS RED-CARDED

We do tend to complain about refs (last week, 'Ruddy Awful'?) but at least our boys don't generally behave like some Russian refs who arrived for a UEFA Cup match in Israel slightly 'under the weather', followed by an episode of harassing female police officers and waitresses. They were banned for a year.

"Hendo"



The last couple of weeks have been a real learning experience for me after I was rested due to illness for the match against the Brisbane Strikers two weeks ago.

I had been sick for a while and I wasn't getting any better so Arnie decided to give me a week's rest to get over my illness.

My illness was also affecting my performances and in turn that affected the team's chances of winning games so it was the right thing to do for everyone involved at Northern Spirit.

With me sitting on the sideline John Perosh made his first grade debut for the club and I was really happy for him.

When I was selected in first grade last year in front of John Perosh he was entitled to feel dirty but he has kept his head high, trained hard and been supportive of me at every training session and before and after every match.

He was the true professional and it was no surprise that he did well when he took over from me in goals against Brisbane.

John did so well that Arnie stuck with him for the match against Sydney Olympic and I have no problems with that.

Just like it was when I took over

in the first grade side, the position is now John's and I have to work hard to get it back.

When I get a chance I will have to take it but before I get a chance I have to show Arnie I am ready by giving my all and performing for the youth league side.

After watching the way John has conducted himself over the last year I know what I have to do and I have started to do that already, turning out for the Northern Spirit youth team last weekend.

The whole episode has showed me how important it is not to give anyone a sniff because if someone takes your place and does well then you have to fight to get it back.

Whether you are a goalkeeper or a striker, playing for Northern Spirit or the Collaroy U11s, the situation is the same.

It was a very strange experience watching a game of soccer at North Sydney Oval last Friday night.

It was the first time that I have not taken part in a Northern Spirit match at North Sydney Oval and watching the huge crowd without concentrating on the match it was great to soak up the atmosphere.

What it did though was make me more determined to get my first grade spot back.

INSIDE SOCCER

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Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina. "There's nothing for me here."

By Greg Blake

Branko Culina is almost certain to bring the curtain down on his chequered NSL coaching career at the end of this season.

Admitting that his four-club, 160-plus game coaching stint "feels more like 550", Culina is unlikely to coach in the NSL again in the foreseeable future, regardless of the success or otherwise of his rapidly-improving Sydney Olympic team in 1999/2000.

"To be honest, I've just had enough," revealed Culina, who was billed as one of Australia's hottest coaching prospects less than two years ago.

"I am giving up coaching next year.

"I've seen it all in Australian Soccer and there's nothing for me here."

While enthusiastic about the promise of turning perennial underachievers Olympic into contenders this summer, Culina is determined to put family first for

a time.

The dapper 42-year-old intends spending more time with son Jason at Ajax Amsterdam next year before, well, who knows?

Culina says that his own somewhat fractured family background has convinced him that he needs some time to give sons Jason and Northern Spirit's Dean the sort of guidance he lacked as a youngster.

"I grew up in a tough world and at times there was no-one there to guide me in the right direction," he reflected.

"In the end I f---d up ... I f---d up quite a few times.

"I'd do anything for my own kids, so it's about time I really took some time out for them.

"My priorities have changed now.

"I will continue to be involved somewhere, but how and where I just don't know."

The news of Culina's impending departure from the scene is likely to draw mixed reactions.

The media-savvy Culina has never been, well, overly popular.

He's been variously dismissed as overly-ambitious, arrogant, brash, cocky, opinionated, and not just a little smug with what is perceived as shameless self-promotion.

However, those closest to him admire his boiled lollies to chocolates career path forged out of a fairly modest playing career and his un-er-ing passion

for the game.

To give some perspective on the 'real' Culina, he was remarkably reluctant to talk to IS on any other subject other than his team.

"Blakey, I really would prefer it if you wrote nothing at all," he said.

And he meant it.

It took more than a week of nuisance

calls to bring him around. Which is a 180 degree about-face for the same young man who burst into the public eye with such audacity some eight years ago and, has since gained an unwanted, and probably unwarranted, image as a self-absorbed egotist of the highest order.

On the eve of the 1992 Victorian Premier League Grand Final very few people gave Culina's upstart North Geelong team a chance of rolling Brunswick Juventus in the big game.

No newly-promoted team had ever won the competition in their first season in, yet Culina fired up an otherwise laborious match-eve press conference in sensational fashion, boldly predicting that his team would "thrash the pants off" Juventus in the big game. Juve coach Billy Rogers was furious, the press gallery was slack-jawed and incredulous and the game itself received more than its fair

share of media coverage - all thanks to Branko's big mouth.

His North Geelong team did indeed storm to a stunning upset grand final win and Culina's public profile blossomed.

"It (the press conference) was dull," he laughs.

"I mean it was a Saturday afternoon during the AFL football season and how

else would people like Peter Desira or (the late) Laurie Schwab have managed to get a half page for the game?

"What people don't understand is that I did it for

the game.

"Believe it or not, I don't enjoy the media and I never have.

"I needed the media and I think I've been good for (promotion of) the game.

"But it has cost me.

"People think I am arrogant and a smart-arse.

"I know some people were a bit jealous or envious because I had my head on SBS (TV) all the time or my name might have been in the newspaper all the time.

"But with my background as a player I had to work my way up through the ranks - I had to do it for my career or I might have never have been noticed or offered the opportunities I've had.

Continued page 18

BRANKO CULINA:

"I've had enough of Australia"

Newcastle Breakers

VS

Marconi Stallions

At Breakers Stadium

This Friday night

kick-off 7.30pm

Youth v Marconi 5.15pm

Gates open 4.45pm with children under 15

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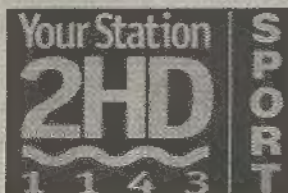
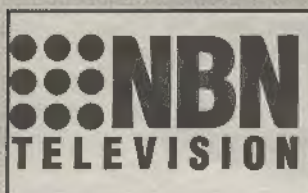
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Win FREE holiday to New Zealand

This Friday at Power's home game against Gippsland Falcons the club will have a theme night.

The theme of the match is 'Family Night', with special family prices, loads of entertainment for the kids, the chance to win a holiday for two to Auckland when Power plays there in January, and special group rates.

Special packages for Friday night's game at Parramatta Stadium include a 'Family Deal' at \$40 for two adults and two kids or one adult and three kids in the Cronin Grandstand. Plus 'Mates Rates' with \$10 tickets when you book ten or more tickets together. The 'Mates Rates' tickets must be pre-booked through the Power office on 9630 9777.

Parramatta Power may have enjoyed more fans thus far if some of their district junior association players knew of their entitlement to free season passes.

Any child who plays in either the Macarthur, Blacktown, Nepean, Bankstown or Granville Associations are eligible for a free season pass.

"We really want to provide a great night out for all the family on Friday night and at every game and we don't want any junior players in the area missing out because they were unaware that they could receive a pass," said Power General Manager Brad Levy.

Any junior player who hasn't

received their free pass, and would like one, can call the Power office on 9630 9777 and they will make sure they receive all the information they need.

Over in Perth and there is talk that the WA state federation is keen on backing a second side in Perth.

Representatives of the state federation went on local radio to slam Glory for not doing anything for the local game.

This outlandish comment was naturally refuted by Glory GM Roger Lefort who said the role of his club was to provide Perth with a soccer club at the "elite level." He believed they had done this well. He also felt that it was still too early for a second club in the city, given Glory is still only in its fourth year.

Furthermore, the reports regarding brilliant German striker Ulf Kirsten coming to Glory are true. It is currently an issue between coach Stange and the player, but if it does happen, we will know by next July. Stange has coached Kirsten before and has spoken to him about the benefits of coming to Australia.

Lefort added that this would be the biggest signing of any NSL club if it came off.

Kirsten, 32, is currently playing at Leverkusen and would like a move to Australia for family reasons.

GREG BLAKE

C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR



It appears that all is well again between Sydney Olympic and little Normie Tome, which is terrific for both club and player.

The club's all-time NSL top goalscorer (pictured) and Olympic management have kissed and made up and Tome might be only a matter of a couple of weeks away from forcing his way into an increasingly impressive line-up.

"We'll be a better team for having him back," says coach Branko Culina.

With Norm and former Brisbane Striker Chris Zoricich set to return and press for senior selection those punters who grabbed rather generous pre-season odds on Olympic making the to six will be pretty happy indeed.

This is not the Lee Sterrey gazette and I vow not to mention another word about the bloke until the day the Newcastle Breakers make the finals.

However, it cannot pass without comment that the club has seen the sense to contract Sterrey for a further two seasons, binding him to the club until the end of the 2001/2002 NSL season.

Notwithstanding the fact that coaching contracts aren't worth the paper they are written on - not in this league, anyway - it does my karma no end of good to see a top bloke and largely unheralded talent getting on in what can be a pretty nasty industry.

Lee, I hope the cheque's in the mail.

I'm a little surprised Canberra fans aren't reaching for the oxygen masks, such are the lofty but unfamiliar peaks the Cosmos are scaling this season.

Before edging into the top six in the first four rounds of this season, not at any point since the club joined the league in 1995/96 have Canberra EVER been in top six territory.

According to the records, Cosmos have never been higher than eight on the table at any point, in any season.

Canberra reached its previous peak way back in December 1995, after a couple of consecutive wins in rounds 14 and 15 of the 95/96 season.

While I'm on the 'bokes who deserve a wrap and rarely get 'em' bandwagon, how's this for a stat on Cosmos boss Tom Sermanni.

Sermanni has coached Cosmos to six wins in his 21 games in charge at the Bruce Stadium, including two already this term.

It took four coaches - Mike Lyons, Branko Culina, Rale Rasic and Tony Brennan - and the previous 64 matches to win an equal number of games.

As I write, the vultures are circling Knights Stadium and waiting to pick the bones on the coaching carcass of Josip Biskic.

It comes as no surprise that he is in the gun after the Knights' worst start to an NSL season ever, but what the heck were the expectations of the club this year anyway?

From a side which struggled to stay afloat last season they've lost Deak, Pondeljak and Didulica and they've still tossed Biskic the car keys with the expectations of a podium finish.

I've seen the Knights twice this year and no disrespect to the bunch of triers they've got on the paddock, but this is a very average unit indeed.

Anybody in the job would struggle. What I find particularly galling about the affair are the suggestions from the club that conjecture about Biskic's future was created and fuelled by the media.

Oh please, that hardly explains why at least one senior figure at the club was on the blower around the nation weeks ago to seek advice on who might be available.

Media reports suggest Biskic's future hinged on last weekend's result against sister club Sydney United, so I hope the little champ is off the intensive care list.

Alas, I fear the worst and I'd be surprised if the new man in the hot seat at Knights Stadium isn't former grand final team mate Vlado Vanis.

Perhaps there is a good reason why it hasn't happened yet, but why haven't any of the marketing gurus at the Melbourne clubs yet suggested taking a punt on scheduling a home game on Melbourne Cup Day?

It is probably the most popular of Melbourne's annual public holidays, with the city in a festive mood but often with very little to do.

Personally I couldn't think of a better possible fund-raiser for any local club.

That club would have the day to itself for starters.

Get some marquees, hire a couple of big-screen televisions, run a giant fund-raising Melbourne Cup sweep and start the day early for the punters with the regulation chicken and champagne brunch.

Watch the Melbourne Cup on the big screens at 3.40pm and then kick the game off around 4pm, meaning the family is packed up and home by dinner time.

Like I said, there must be a good reason why the marketing whizz-kids haven't tried it.

First year Carlton boss Stuart Munro has been refreshingly forthright about his team and his players since moving up from the Gippsland Falcons.

Former Blackpool, Burnley, Fulham and Preston striker Mike Conroy has been the latest to cop some public flak from Munro, following his goal-less opening four games with the Melbourne club.

"Mike is still finding his feet in Australian soccer and I think he appreciates that the standard of Australian soccer is higher than he thought," Munro was reported to have said.

I'd be curious to find out what calibre league Conroy initially thought he was lining up when he accepted the Carlton offer.



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JOEL GRIFFITHS: the tradition continues

By Roger Sleeman

It's no coincidence that Joel Griffiths is rising to the top of Australian football. His family embraces a football tradition which dates back to the fifties, when his grandfather Dave played for the Sutherland Casuals followed by father Allan who had a long career with Sutherland, Marconi, Western Suburbs and Avala.

Joel's brothers, Ryan and Adam, are currently in the first team squad at Northern Spirit.

After his baptism of fire last season at Sydney United, Griffiths is maturing into one of the most explosive strikers in the NSL at his new club, Parramatta Power.

The question is: how long will it be before this exciting talent joins the exodus to Europe?

In this exclusive interview with Roger Sleeman, Griffiths talks about life as a professional footballer and his career ambitions.

ROGER SLEEMAN: Coming from a footballing family, was it always your ambition to play at the highest level?

JOEL GRIFFITHS: It was always going to be a challenge to travel around Australia and play against the best players in the country, something my father unfortunately never had the opportunity to experience because he left Marconi in 1976, a year before the start of the NSL.

R.S. How important has your father's contribution been to the development of your game?

J.G. He has put a lot of time in with me and because he's been there and done it, it's a big advantage technically and psychologically. He always gives me pointers to help me improve in all areas of my game.

R.S. Are you another example of those prodigious natural talents to come out of the Sutherland Shire? (southern Sydney.)

J.G. In the Shire there's a great football tradition which ensures a constant production line of natural talent. When I was young I watched some players train much harder than me but they never made the grade. My development came a little bit later so I suppose you could attribute that partly to natural ability.

R.S. What was the feeling when you scored as a replacement for David Mitchell on debut against Carlton last season, and were you happy with your performances during 1998/99?

J.G. For any player, the thought of scoring in their first match must be incredible but it's often only an injury to another player that gives you that lucky break. I scored eight goals during the season but I also spent a lot of time on the bench so who knows how many more I would've scored if given more time on the park.

R.S. Are you saying that David Mitchell used you too sparingly?

J.G. All players want to be out on the pitch for every ninety minutes and I believe I would've scored more goals, but in the end it's the coach's decision and nobody could criticize the team's achievements last season.

What I'm trying to do is put last season behind me and work harder to ensure there can be no doubts about my selection.

R.S. Why did you figure so rarely in Les Scheinflug's plans during the W.Y.C. in Nigeria last year?

J.G. When we were playing in Holland, before travelling to Nigeria, I damaged a quadricep which really slowed me down. I didn't play much until the last match of WYC '99, but at that stage we were virtually out of the tournament. However, even if I'd been totally fit I'm not sure whether I would've played any more because I don't really think Scheinflug really intended using me regularly during the tournament.

R.S. Were we really outclassed in Nigeria, particularly against the likes of Eire who paraded the talents of Robbie Keane and Damien Duff?



Power's Joel Griffiths

Continued page 18

PARRAMATTA
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NSL ROUND 5: KOSSIE'S DREAM RUN CONTINUES



The Hand of God? 13 years after Maradona was involved in that famous incident, another Argentine Pablo Cardozo had his own H.O.G. experience, on Friday night at Spirit

Round five in review

Round five of the NSL produced another set of controversies that will keep fans talking all week. Talking point one came from Friday night's Spirit v Olympic clash, in front of a classic Spirit home crowd of just over 16,000.

Did Cardozo's arm make contact with the ball as it was bundled over the line? TV replays suggested it had an element of 'Hand of God' to it, but the referee, perhaps unsure, consulted his assistant and they both felt it was the right decision.

Certainly Graham Arnold was adamant there was an infringement.

Anyway, it would have been more than Spirit deserved if they had got away with a 0-0 draw.

Olympic was magnificent and is an early-season contender for a finals spot, but what is wrong with Spirit?

They persist with the predictable high and long balls out of the back together with a strong possession game. It is dull to watch and they won't win any new fans playing this way. The fans, however, are still there singing and cheering, as Helen Reddy might say, in numbers too big to ignore.

"I believe we gave the game away. When Perth had 11 men we competed but once the player was sent-off we sort of relaxed. Plus at half-time we were forced into making a number of changes that destabilized the side," said Cosmos' attacking midfielder Harry James of their Friday night home game against Perth Glory.

"Everything is going really well so far this year, Tom Sermanni has given us more organization ... if you perform you will earn your spot in the team.

"Carlton (this Friday night) will be new for us because most of us have not played at Olympic Park before," added James.

Another talking point from the weekend was the bizarre behaviour of Wollongong Wolves. What got into them? Leading 3-1 with about 30 mins to go against Kingz in Auckland, the game was in the bag. Yet two stupid red-cards in soft zones let the competitive Kingz back into it, and they took advantage of it

to grab a last gasp equalizer, much to the delight of an ecstatic home gallery.

The mayhem however continued after the game with Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos verbally abusing the referee and, allegedly, shoving him. The coach had to be restrained by his own players.

No Wolves officials turned up for the after-match press conference (the same can be said for Spirit's Graham Arnold after their game on Friday night).

Furthermore, our New Zealand people tell us that the attendance was closer to 6,000 rather than the posted 4,500 (which didn't include free tickets).

There is a general feeling that Aucklanders are somewhat blasé about sport, even their Union side the Blues can only average 15,000 at Eden Park.

Kingz' next home game is in Christchurch on November 13, ironically against the league's newest hotheads, Wollongong Wolves. Hopefully Christchurch can show Auckland up with a big turnout.

A third talking point was the continued poor form of Power. The restructured defence (no Vrkic or skipper Plesa) looked all at sea against the surprise packet of the league, the unbeaten Brisbane Strikers.

Once this defensive frailty is given some steel one feels the side could start to win some games. Their match this week against Falcons is a great opportunity for three points, yet the Gippslanders won their first game of the season last week and will have their tails up.

And a final talking point could be South Melbourne. Reports this week that the financial windfall from the WCC will be in the order of four million dollars may have been the good news, but the side's lack of consistency is frustrating the club's studious coach Ange Postecoglou.

Last week he bemoaned their lack of consistency, after South's win over Falcons, but their loss against Marconi this round is further fuel for those who think the WCC championships is starting to take the focus off South's NSL campaign.

Then again, who would bet against this side not making the finals? And once in the finals, anything can happen, especially when you have the big-time know-how (added to by their experience of playing Man Utd) South have.

Having said that it's good to see Eddie Krncevic's Marconi doing well. He is a thoroughly professional coach at a thoroughly professional club.

And, as always, he's dressed for success.

TIPS FOR ROUND 6

To win: Power, Olympic, Perth, South, Newcastle

Draws: Wolves v Spirit, Carlton v Cosmos, Sydney United v Force.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"It was eerie."

Falcons coach Jeff Hopkins reflecting on the Buddhist Monks' chants when they blessed the Gippsland home ground before the weekend game. Falcons won.

"I'm looking for inner-peace." Branko Culina on his decision to quit coaching at the end of this season.

"Harry Kewell is a modern day poet who speaks for us all." Dennis Gedling on Perth's Heritage

FM's soccer show commenting on Kewell's newspaper column

"I am absolutely shattered, I have no idea what we can do to get back on track."

Graham Arnold after Spirit's loss to Olympic.

*NSL top scorers:

Con Boutsianis (Glory) 4
Michael Curcija (SMelb) 4
Paul Foster (Strikers) 4 (pictured right in yellow shirt)
Daniel Watkins (Cosmos) 4

Cumulative attendances after round five

99/00: 228,941

98/99: 235,838



	(Overall)								(Home)								(Away)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Strikers	5	4	1	0	9	4	13	5	2	1	0	7	4	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Carlton	5	3	2	0	10	2	11	8	1	1	0	3	2	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0
Sydney Olympic	5	3	2	0	9	3	11	6	0	2	0	3	3	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	0
Perth Glory	5	2	3	0	8	4	9	4	0	2	0	3	3	2	1	0	5	1	0	0	5	1	0
Marconi Stallions	5	2	2	1	8	9	8	-1	1	0	1	2	4	1	2	0	6	5	0	0	6	5	0
Canberra Cosmos	5	2	1	2	7	5	7	2	1	1	2	4	3	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2	0
Newcastle Breakers	5	1	3	1	7	6	5	1	0	2	0	3	3	1	1	1	4	3	0	1	4	3	0
South Melbourne	5	2	0	3	6	5	8	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	1	5	0	3	1	5
Wollongong Wolves	5	1	3	1	8	11	6	-3	1	0	1	2	5	0	3	0	6	6	0	0	6	6	0
Football Kingz	5	1	2	2	6	9	5	-3	1	1	1	4	6	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0
Adelaide Force	5	1	2	2	3	6	5	-3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	5	0	1	2	1	5
Gippsland Falcons	5	1	2	2	3	6	5	-3	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	1	4	0
Parramatta Power	5	1	1	3	7	10	4	-3	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	2	2	5
Northern Spirit	5	1	1	3	4	7	4	-3	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	1	1	4	4
Sydney United	5	1	1	3	4	7	4	-3	1	0	2	3	5	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0
Melbourne Knights	5	1	0	4	3	8	3	-5	1	0	2	1	4	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	2	2	4

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Dreary Spirit succumbs to exciting Olympic

**NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1**

Cardozo 15

Friday night at Spirit Park, North Sydney. Crowd 16,134



Another classy display by Pablo Cardozo.

By Paul Goodwin

A bumper crowd at North Sydney Oval was treated to a first class display by the entertaining Sydney Olympic as they outclassed a Northern Spirit team which still lacks all the qualities their opponents possess; flair, cohesion and team unity.

In beating Spirit 1-0 Olympic showed clear signs that they will be right in the title race this season, something the home side can only dream about at this early stage.

Both goalkeepers had outstanding games; Spirit's John Perosh with some stunning saves and a convincing command of his area more than justifying his selection ahead of crowd favourite Paul Henderson.

And George Bouhoutsos doing enough to suggest that the absent Jim Kouritis has a real fight on his hands to regain his number one spot.

It was the kind of match which could easily have provided an Olympic win in the order of four or five goals to two, such was their first half domination and overall territorial superiority.

While only one goal was scored, there were many chances and plenty of thrills for a crowd which once again turned up in encouraging numbers.

A second half rally by Spirit saw two late, clear-cut chances saved by the Olympic custodian to prevent the locals taking an undeserved point.

Perosh, by contrast, had been called into action constantly, was beaten only once and then in controversial circumstances.

The winning goal arrived in the 15th minute and typified the frenzied goal-mouth action that was evident throughout this exciting match.

Zlatko Arambasic rocked the cross-bar with a booming shot from 15 yards out, after Lindsay Wilson had made a strong run down the left and cut the ball back to the edge of the area.

The rebound off the woodwork was then headed against the angle of the upright by Pablo Cardozo and as the ball landed in the crowded goalmouth, frantic attempts by players of both sides resulted in the ball crossing the line either off Cardozo or a Spirit defender, home players' claims for handball indicating that it was the former.

There were counter claims that Cardozo was offside when he got his head to the rebound and also others that the initial shot from Arambasic had already crossed the line as it came back off the underside of the bar.

Whatever the reality the goal stands as the winner, which was richly deserved by an Olympic side which played flowing football, had much more bite in the tackle and used the well prepared and smooth surface to perfection.

They strung their passes together impressively and controlled the more dangerous players from Spirit, who struggled to get any real momentum going at any time.

Spirit also persisted in sending long balls out to the wings to be contested in the air and the tactic failed dismally.

The tone of the game was set early when Perosh saved a Cardozo free kick, 20 yards out, the first of many to come from Olympic's constant assaults on the Northern Spirit goal.

Robbie Enes let fly from 30 yards out for them home side soon after, only to send the ball hurtling over the bar.

Spirit's good work in the seventh, that began with a Langdon cross, headed on by David Seal and laid back by Sean Cranney to captain-for-the-day Matthew Bingley, saw a fingertip save by Bouhoutsos to the skipper's stinging volley from 15 yards.

The only goal followed shortly after this and Olympic striker Arambasic again tested Perosh with a strong shot in the 28th, which the goalie dealt with in reflex fashion, after the ball had been laid on a platter from the byline for the Olympic man.

Olympic were well on top as the first half drew to a close, Graham Arnold being forced to clear off the line once and Perosh called upon twice more to save shots from Emerton and Cardozo.

Arambasic might have made it two for the visitors, but team-mate Cardozo got in the way of the shot on the stroke of half time.

The best the home side could offer was a header wide by Seal after good work by Troy Cranney on the flank.

Seal again failed to find the target soon after the start of the second half, which saw Spirit showing a greater sense of purpose.

Arnold flicked the ball on from a high ball driven towards the box and from right in front the former Northampton player scooped the ball well over the bar.

Seal had another effort in the 51st blocked by the defence, after he found himself on the ground with the ball at his feet following a corner.

Arnold had pushed himself up from sweeper in the second period to form a twin spearhead with Seal and later brought on Abbas Saad to slot in behind this changed pairing. Arnold headed wide from a Sean Cranney cross on the right in the 57th and the home side stepped up their work rate considerably from this moment.

The industrious Scott Thomas, whose work on the right flank allowed Matthew Langdon little space in which to operate, got away down the right in the 59th and cut the ball back for Cardozo, but Mark Rudan was on the line to head the ball to safety.

Perosh showed good judgement and anticipation to race off his line to claim the ball when Emerton was put through by Cardozo in the 77th, but after this it was Bouhoutsos who had to really earn his spurs.

The last fifteen minutes saw a belated surge by Spirit who could have snatched a draw, had the keeper been having an off day.

Saad won the ball forty yards out from goal and smacked the ball firmly into the area, but when Bouhoutsos could only parry the shot, the lurking Seal was much too slow to react and the second real chance went begging.

Langdon made a rare advance down the left and got the ball over in the 86th as Olympic appeared to relax slightly in their marking roles, but the cross the diminutive wingman delivered was of little value, evading both forwards and going harmlessly out of play.

Luke Casserly did much better, as stoppage time began, when he got the better of his marker on the left and cut the ball back from the byline.

Seal converged on it at the near post and looked set to score this time, but Bouhoutsos saved the effort at point blank range.

There was one other Spirit move which brought howls of protest from home supporters when Arnold appeared to be pushed from behind as he moved onto a cross with a hungry striker's instinct. As he lay sprawling on the ground inside the area, referee Mark Shield awarded only a goal kick, when Spirit clearly felt a penalty was warranted.

For Olympic, former Spirit midfielder and Soccerroo Gabriel Mendez was highly influential with his probing and there was solid work from Marcus Phillips and Brett Emerton as usual. Thomas was very sound and Wilson, who hit the bar with one shot, was very adventurous on the wings and to good effect.

Spirit's stand-in skipper Bingley played well in patches, but apart from toil without reward by the Arnold/Seal/Perinich strike force, there was little satisfaction to be drawn from this game by the home side, other than.

The display of Perosh who caught every cross cleanly and saved every shot he faced, apart from those which struck the woodwork.

Spirit assistant coach Ian Crook agreed after the game that his side had

MATCH STATS

NORTHERN SPIRIT: J Perosh, G Arnold, M Bingley (C), A Saad 70, L Casserly, M Rudan, T Cranney, S Cranney (M Curico 67), R Enes, D Seal, T Perinich (P Bilokapic 46), M Langdon

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsakenis (C), Baillie, Juric, Z Arambasic (Kalandzis 53), Phillips, Cardozo, Emerton, Wilson, Mendez (P Zorbas 62)

Yellows: Spirit: Enes Bilokapic Olympic: Emerton, Mendez, Phillips, Wilson, Kalandzis

Best Players

3 JOHN PEROSH (NS)
2 Scott Thomas (SO)
1 George Bouhoutsos (SO)

Referee: Mark Shield

been lucky not to be three down at the break and that Olympic had clearly been the better side. Despite a strong week at training, he said, once they got out on the pitch the Spirit players were again found wanting and he could not single out any one player for criticism.

He praised Olympic's superior commitment and their sheer ability on the night.

Olympic coach Branko Culina spoke in glowing terms of his team's fighting approach to the game and a week of planning for the occasion.

He believed that no team could have lived with Olympic on this night, as they were really fired up and fully lived up to his expectations.

He was keen to avoid making early assessments of the prospects for the season, but was more than happy with the way the team played and was happy to savour the moment.

Olympic have now been to Spirit Park twice and won both times, keeping a clean sheet on each occasion.

By contrast Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold's wish that his side make the ground a fortress this season have got off to the worst possible start, two losses and not a goal to show for their efforts.

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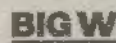
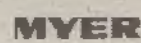
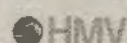
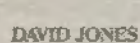
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Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd 5,200



Alex Tobin: not a good week for the big man. Left out of the Socceroos and injured early against Carlton.

By Margaret Bowden
and Donald Campbell OAM

No goals for the Force, again. Vidmar, Day and Kim booked, again. Tobin forced off injured. Three keepers in four weeks - Breden, Lihou, now Knezevic. While some new faces have already disappeared (Rodrigues), others have popped up. Matt Kemp, John Fusco, Shane Thompson - who? Thompson was signed at 4pm on Friday. Dongi Ki Kim was not named on the original team sheet, but was added as a sub at the last minute. He replaced fellow sub Fusco, who had earlier made his Force home debut coming on for injured captain Alex Tobin late in the first half. Confused yet?

The fans sat in the incessant drizzle, awaiting a glimpse of the Force's mystery overseas star. But Italian striker Claudio Pelosi (who?) couldn't play - his transfer papers were delayed. Little wonder the team looked short circuited for much of the match.

Carlton coach Stuart Munro also had his problems. 'The Blues', adding to the confusion with their maroon strip, missed the penetration of import Stuart Slater. Munro played a 'horses for courses' combination, keeping buzz-bomb

Archie Thompson and powerhouse John Markovski on the bench.

His aim was to nullify Damian Mori, Nathan Day and Aurelio Vidmar. Coast FM Player of the Match Craig Deans, Sean Douglas, big David McPherson and warhorse Andrew Marth did this perfectly, while Lupo Lapsansky ran riot in attack.

His fellow terror Joe Tricarico suffered a leg injury after twelve minutes and was replaced by Mark Atkinson. Even without Tricarico, Carlton fired fourteen shots at goal to the Force's six.

The game was a battle of the mid-field. When either team attacked, the opposing defence dispossessed them.

Mori opened the Force attack in the sixth minute. He glided into the penalty area, but was dispossessed by Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis, who did 'an Ivanovic' and dribbled around Mori before clearing the ball. Carlton came close to scoring when Mike Conroy met Andrew Packer's long throw from the left with a cheeky overhead kick.

The ball looped over Knezevic but went just over the bar.

New Force recruit Kemp, replacing the injured Sabljak, streaked down the right and crossed the ball to the far post for Mori, but his header missed the target.

Kemp, Bradley Hassell and Vidmar began to get some system going in attack for the Force, but the Carlton defence



Aurelio Vidmar (when he looked like Bon Jovi). The Socceroo was yellow-carded on Friday.

constantly got the better of them. They never looked as if they had any chance of penetrating the formidable combination of Deans, Douglas and McPherson, who strolled through the game in total control, mirroring the old Force combination of Ivanovic, Tobin and Costanzo.

Carlton's Lapsansky and Marth took control of the midfield, laying off balls for Packer, Conroy and Moreira.

Amazingly, the one shot which looked to be a goal should have been an easy catch for the giant Wilson Knezevic. Deans sprinted down the left and crossed for Conroy who shot straight at the Force keeper. Knezevic misjudged the height of the ball and attempted to punch it.

It spun off his hand and appeared to go into the inside netting by the far post. The Carlton players and the spectators thought it was a goal, but Knezevic grabbed it. Neither the referee nor his assistant signalled a goal. Silence - more confusion. What's a soccer match without controversy?

Carlton came out fired up after the break. McPherson almost scored from a Lapsansky cross in the second minute, but Carl Veart cleared his shot off the line! Vidmar replied for the Force, dodging into the penalty area and going down under pressure. No penalty.

Ex-Force player David Terminello then sent a long shot over the bar for Carlton. A minute later Lapsansky was in the box. Knezevic raced off his line and took the ball off Lapsansky's boot.

Kemp attacked down the right for the Force. His lob across the box was headed for Fusco, who slipped. Suddenly the ball was back in Carlton's court. Knezevic dived under Packer. Great save!

Personal duels began to boil over. Marth and Vidmar had been niggling each other all night. Marth's rough treatment went unpunished. Vidmar flattened the next player he came in contact with - Lapsansky. Yellow card Vidmar.

He responded with a touch of brilliance, sending Veart through with a pin point pass into the penalty area. The ball was cleared for a corner, resulting in three shots in quick succession for the Force, the final shot from Zelic going straight to Anastasiadis.

Carlton's Atkinson sent in an opportunistic long shot from forty metres on the left. Goal? The ball rocketed off the far corner of the crossbar. Markovski came on for Moreira and caused problems immediately. Knezevic roared out of the eighteen yard box to clear a long ball from Lapsansky as Markovski homed in on it.

Munro threw Archie Thompson into the fray. He headed on target half a

MATCH STATS

ADELAIDE FORCE
Knezevic, Zelic, Tobin (Fusco 37, Kim 72), Mori, Veart, Vidmar, Day, Cartwright, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell.

CARLTON
Anastasiadis, McPherson, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Moriera (Markovski 67), Lapsansky, Conroy (Thompson 79), Terminello.

Tricarico (Atkinson 14), Packer

Yellows

Force: Day, Vidmar, Kim
Carlton: Packer

Best Players:

3 CRAIG DEANS (CARLTON)
2 Lupo Lapsansky (Carlton)
1 Angelo Costanzo (Force)

Referee: Con Diomis



Carlton's rock-like defence is lead by ex-Scottish international David McPherson

minute later. Easy catch Knezevic.

Force's best scoring chance came when Mori was fouled just outside the box. Vidmar took the kick, but the ball whistled just over the bar. The Force seemed to lose the plot, pumping balls forward willy nilly.

Referee Con Diomis became a star for all the wrong reasons in the final minute.

Vidmar and Lapsansky were having shirt tugging tussle. Diomis awarded Carlton the free kick - surely the wrong way round?

Superboot Markovski lined up to take it twenty metres out on a slight angle to the left. Hindmarsh echoed with the home fans' boos. As Markovski prepared to shoot, Kim charged forward. Yellow card Kim - more uproar - a retake.

Markovski unleashed one of his rockets. It ricocheted off the inside of the far post, Carlton shot again, the ball was cleared, Lapsansky was flattened again - another free kick.

More howling and booing as Lapsansky pumped the ball into the box again - whistle - foul on Knezevic.

The final whistle went and it was 0-0. Relief for Matic, frustration for Munro.

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Glory survives Junior red-card to earn point



CANBERRA COSMOS 1

Popovich 56

PERTH GLORY 1

Boutsianis 62

Friday night at Bruce Stadium, Canberra. Crowd 3,760



Cosmos best player - Ivo de Jesus

By Dylan Durie

Perth Glory survived the 33rd minute sending off of Brazilian defender Edgar to fight out a 1-1 draw with the Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium on Friday night.

The Cosmos were having by far the better of play prior to Edgar's dismissal but as so often is the case, the ten men dug in and Canberra were unable to break down Perth's defence until the 56th minute.

The goal was scrappy when it came, and Perth restored parity within six minutes after which the Cosmos never looked



Cosmos goalscorer Toplica Popovich.

like scoring a winning goal despite their numerical advantage.

The Cosmos began very brightly and had an early chance when Jason Polak controlled an Ivo De Jesus cross for Danny Watkins who shot wide from close

range.

In the ninth minute Perth had possibly their best chance of the first half when Bobby Despotovski found himself in an unforgivable amount of space from a corner but blasted his free header just over.

Five minutes later, the Cosmos appealed for a penalty when de Jesus was pulled down in a very good position but referee Brian Precious, officiating his first NSL match, awarded a free kick on the edge of the area. De Jesus put his shot well over the bar.

Harry James then made a chance for Canberra when he danced through two defenders in the area but his pullback from the by-line was too fierce and Watkins couldn't control the header.

Scottish midfielder Brian Hamilton, making his home debut, also had a chance to put the Cosmos in front when the ball fell at his feet from a half cleared corner but he shot over the cross bar.

In the 23rd minute, Watkins made his way clean through the defence after controlling a long ball from Harry James with his hand. Having got away with the hand ball, Watkins missed a golden opportunity as veteran 'keeper Tony Franken pushed his shot round the post when it seemed certain he would score.

Canberra dominated their more fancied opponents up to this point but would pay for their inability to put the ball in the net.

Edgar's dismissal came when he hauled down de Jesus as the last defender, although Franken had the long ball well and truly covered.

This signaled the end of Canberra's domination as Perth crowded the midfield and seemed content with a draw even at this early stage.

The Cosmos did have one more chance for the half when Harry James sent Jason Polak away down the left in the 37th minute. Polak rolled the ball into the path of de Jesus but Scott Miller blocked his shot from close range.

Despotovski had another free header from a corner in injury time but again failed to hit the target.

Four minutes into the second half James fizzed a shot just wide from 25 yards after a Michael Musitano long throw had been headed clear.

Troy Halpin returned the favour at the other end after a clever lay off by Despotovski.

The Cosmos then took the lead in the 56th minute when Danny Burt nodded de Jesus' corner toward goal and Despotovski's attempted sliding clearance cannoned off the midriff of Toppy Popovich into the roof of the net.

The lead was short lived as Musitano could only play an attempted intercept into the path of Despotovski behind the Cosmos defence. Making the best of his fortune, Despotovski slid an accurate ball to Con Boutsianis at the far post who finished powerfully with his first touch.

Ilija Prenzoski looked very lively for Canberra after his introduction in the 69th minute, but couldn't produce a clear chance for his side as Perth instituted time wasting tactics as early as the 70th minute.

Perth was unlucky when Despotovski ran on to an Ivan Ergic cross to head home only to be judged offside.

Canberra's best chance to win the game came in the 75th minute when Watkins exchanged passes with Prenzoski on the edge of the area but could only chip lamely into the hands of Franken.

Soon after Perth found an unlikely chance for a winner after a swift counter through Despotovski but Boutsianis mis-kicked from close range.

Perth coach Bernd Stange was dis-



Man of the Match, Perth Glory's Bobby Despotovski

appointed his title chasing team wasn't able to beat last year's wooden spooners. "It was a very long time to go with ten men which made it hard for us," he said.

"Under this circumstance I am happy with the draw but normally we have to beat the Canberra Cosmos. It was in my mind to come to Canberra and beat this

MATCH STATS



CANBERRA COSMOS:
(3-5-2): Barlow, Popovich, Burt (Kolpak 80), Polak, Winnie, Watkins, Musitano, Hamilton (Prenzoski 69), James (Arranz 52), Hooker, De Jesus.
Booked: James 23, Hamilton 51, Winnie 77



PERTH (3-5-2): Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Naven, Hamwell, Junior, Halpin, Ergic, Edwards, Despotovski, Boutsianis (Carbone 90).

Subs not used: Valle, Thorp.

Yellows:

Glory: Halpin 63.

Reds: Junior 33.

Best Players

3 **DESPOTOVSKI (PERTH)**

2 De Jesus (Canberra)

1 Watkins (Canberra)

Referee: Brian Precious (NZ)

team."

Stange thought the result was never in doubt, despite being a man down.

"We were always in control of the game, they were never able to put us under pressure, not for one minute." Canberra Coach Tom Sermanni was rueful that his side had failed to take advantage of the situation.

"We would look at it as two points lost rather than a point gained," he said.

"But you've got to look at things in perspective. At the end of the day, Perth were beating us 5-1 ten months ago and running over the top of us."

Sermanni was pleased his side are continuing the gradual improvement they have exhibited so far this season. "We've got more to do to become a little better, but I think the signs are there that we are becoming a pretty solid team all-round."

Ram



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WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3

Horsley 3, Reid 38, Masi 61

Friday night at North Harbour Stadium, Auckland, Crowd: 4,500



Wolves' David Huxley: red-carded in Auckland

By Jeremy Ruane

An injury time equaliser from substitute Lee Jones earned the Football Kingz a come-from-behind 3-3 draw against nine-man Wollongong Wolves in the National Soccer League on October 30, the visiting team's indiscipline costing them all three points as they frittered away a 3-1 lead in a dramatic second half.

The newcomer - this was, in fact, his Kingz debut - had barely been on the pitch three minutes when his chance of glory came along, and he took it with aplomb, his twenty-yard shot bulleting past Leslie Pogliacomi into the bottom far corner of the net. A strike which was greeted by an explosion of unbridled ecstasy from the 4,500 paying spectators, who had been willing their heroes on with great gusto as time ticked away.

Nick Theodorakopoulos, Wollongong's coach, made a bee-line for referee Matthew Breeze at the final whistle, and had to be physically restrained by his players from doing anything more than finger-pointing at the official.

It is rare for this writer to pass comment on the performances of referees, as, all too often, they serve as an easy target for players and coaches alike to take advantage of when attempting to explain their own failings.

However, on this occasion, it must be said that Mr Breeze seemed, at times, to be more akin to an ill-wind blasting through North Harbour Stadium, such was his influence on proceedings.

The frequency with which he blew his whistle - on over fifty occasions for both perceived and actual incidents of foul play alone - spoilt the general flow of the game, and, coupled with his eight-and-two card count, served only to add to the frustrations of spectators and players alike throughout the event.

The two worst instances of foul play were seen in the 68th and 75th minutes. Wollongong's Esala Masi took out Harry Ngata with a tackle from behind in the former incident, and the referee quite rightly had no hesitation in reaching for the red card to bring an early conclusion to the speedy striker's on-field activities.

Barely seven minutes had elapsed when Masi's team-mate, David Huxley, was trudging the same route to the showers for committing exactly the same offence, this time on Dino Mennillo. Referee Breeze correctly brandished rouge once more, leaving the Wolves with a compliment of nine men with which to attempt to hold onto what, by now, was a 3-2 lead over the fast-finishing Kingz.

They almost managed it, but in the sixth - or seven - minute of stoppage time, Marcus Stergiopoulos pumped a long ball forward as the Kingz desperately sought a point at the death. Fred de Jong was the target, and he brought the ball down expertly before guiding it into the path of the oncoming Jones.

The Kingz could have won it with the last kick of the game - Stergiopoulos fired over from the edge of the penalty area - but for the locals to have taken all three points would have been two more than they deserved, for in the first half, they weren't at the races.

For the second week running, they were stung by an early goal. Barely three



Esala Masi: the Fijian's visit to NZ was a mixed one. One goal and one red card.

minutes had elapsed when a Neil Harlock throw-in from the left allowed Scott Chipperfield to muscle his way to the byline and whip in a low cross.

The ball was too far ahead of Masi, but was tailor-made for Matt Horsley to ghost in on the far post and steer home

unchallenged, punishing the Kingz for their failure to concentrate from the first whistle in the process.

The home team struggled to respond to this setback, their play generally lacking sharpness, their passing definitely lacking crispness. The Wolves' game plan was also a factor, their 3-4-3 formation exposing one or two hitherto unforeseen frailties in the Kingz make-up.

Only a save from Michael Utting, to deny Stuart Young, and a headed goal-line clearance by Che Bunce, which foiled a shot from Masi, prevented the Kingz from falling further behind before the inevitable happened, seven minutes



Kingz' Che Bunce: once again another solid defensive game from the big man at the back.

before the break.

Harlock was again the instigator, his low cross being touched back by Young for Paul Reid, who unleashed a screamer into Utting's top left-hand corner from fully twenty-five yards - a cracking strike!

It could have been 3-0 just two minutes later, Bunce denying Chipperfield with a timely tackle as the Socceroo cut in from the right with his sights set on scoring. Meanwhile, just after the interval, Masi was denied by Utting, after Reid's perceptive pass put the pacy striker through on goal.

The Kingz hit back through de Jong in the 51st minute. A clever clipped pass down the right by Ngata saw Aaron Silva scampering into the penalty area, from where he drilled in a low cross which de Jong met with a diving header in the shadows of the crossbar - 2-1.

This much-needed strike, coupled with an inspired change of tactics introduced at the interval, spurred the home side on, but their hopes seemed dashed just ten minutes later, as Reid released Masi again with an early ball through a preoccupied defence.

The striker was confronted by Jonathan Perry, but found a gap between him and Utting which was just big enough through which to squeeze a shot, and the ball duly arrowed into the bottom far corner, putting the Wolves 3-1 up, and well on course to claim the points.

Masi then turned from saint to sinner, to which the Kingz responded by reducing the deficit in the 74th minute. Ngata's free-kick to the far post was steered back across goal by Bunce, and Mennillo won the race with de Jong to give the Kingz cause for hope.

Huxley's indiscretion a minute later increased those hopes immeasurably, but the bulk of the remaining twelve minutes saw the Kingz unable to break down the nine-man defensive wall which Wollongong hastily erected in the enforced absence of their admonished

MATCH STATS

FOOTBALL KINGZ



1. Utting; Perry, Bunce, Moya (Stergiopoulos, 46), Vicelich; Jackson, Ngata, Osman (Jones, 85), Mennillo; de Jong, Silva (Van Steeden, 73)



WOLLONGONG:

Pogliacomi; Souros, Stanton, Cervinski; Horsley, Reid (Surjan, 86), Huxley, Harlock; Chipperfield (Spencer, 61), Masi, Young (Petrovski, 71)

Yellows:

Kingz: A. Silva (5), H. Ngata (11), F. de Jong (85)
Wollongong: S. Young (18), M. Horsley (55), N. Harlock (58), D. Cervinski (73), Pogliacomi (74)

Reds:

Wollongong: E. Masi (68), D. Huxley (75)

Best Players:

3 D. CERVINSKI (WOLLONGONG)
2 C. Bunce (Kingz)
1 P. Reid (Wollongong)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

accomplishes.

It was a real "backs to the wall" job for the visitors, with, at times, all bar Utting located in Wollongong's half of the pitch. Leading his team-mates by example was the pony-tailed figure of the generally well-performed David Cervinski, who produced a couple of vital interventions to keep the Kingz out as the ninety-minute mark approached.

But he was powerless to prevent Jones' strike from securing a precious point at the death for the Kingz for the second week running, as the Kiwis begins to inch their way up the table after an inglorious beginning.

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A night out in Mexico
with Michael Utting



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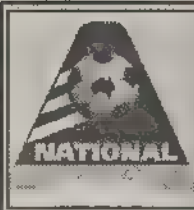
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INSIDE SOCCER

Strikers maintain their incredible run as Power fails again



BRISBANE STRIKERS 3 Dwyer 20', Grierson 35', Foster 81' [Pen] PARRAMATTA POWER 1 Sterjovski 69

Saturday night at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane. Crowd: 4,121

By Cameron Atfield

Brisbane Strikers regained their position as outright competition leaders after a convincing 3-1 win over Parramatta Power at Suncorp Metway Stadium on Saturday night.

The defeat was the Power's third in succession in a disappointing start to the Parramatta Leagues Club's foray into the National Soccer League.

The visitors had the first real chance of the game just five minutes into play, when mid-fielder John Gibson's shot was pushed past the post by Strikers keeper Clint Bolton.

It was then left to the Strikers to dominate the midfield with a series of great one touch passes and runs - and it was only a matter of time before the home side converted it into points.

Crowd favourite Peter Dwyer, who patrols Surfers Paradise beaches in his job as a beach police officer, scored a goal after some good lead-up play by the Strikers.

Peter Grierson laid off an Andrew Davidson long ball to Jeromy Harris, whose shot forced Power keeper Andrew Crews to save.

Dwyer picked up the rebound and the Scot put the ball away for a well-deserved 1-0 lead after 20 minutes.

The Power had a chance to equalise just two minutes later, but Joel Griffiths' promising attack was well smothered by man-of-the-match Bolton.

However, it was the Strikers who scored the next goal of the game. And what a great goal it was.

A quickly taken free kick by Nick Meredith found Paul Foster, who had a headed shot parried by Crews.

The ball found Grierson near the by line, he had a tremendous shot on goal from the tightest of angles, and left Crews to pick the ball out of his own net.

It was Grierson's second goal in as many games for the Strikers, and the former Jersey representative player is proving to be a good buy.

The game should have been wrapped up four minutes later after Harris made a meal of a great lay-off by Foster.

When it appeared easier to score than to miss, Harris sent a powerful point-blank shot to the side, much to the relief of the under-siege Crews.

Parramatta had their own chances at the other end of the field.

Lachlan Campbell had a great chance in the 44th minute after striker Mile Sterjovski provided him with a handy lay-

off. Campbell's shot sailed well wide of the left post.

Less than a minute later, Grierson had an opportunity to bag his second goal, but his powerful shot smashed into the advertising behind the goal.

Going into the half time break with a 2-0 lead, the Strikers surely must have been confident going into the second half.

Dwyer came close to putting the game out of Parramatta's reach just two minutes in when his shot from 25 metres out skimmed the top right corner of Crews' goal.

After the initial attack by Brisbane, they settled down and played a defensive game which Parramatta tried desperately to break.

One of the Power's best chances came in the 57th minute, when Steve Berry got past Bolton and shot from an acute angle.

Strikers captain Stuart McLaren managed to clear the ball off the line after a desperate scramble to the byline.

It was Parramatta's turn to have

Blagojevic put substitute Ahmid Elrich into acres of space.

Elrich managed to set up Sterjovski who made no mistake putting the ball past Bolton.

At this point, the disappointing crowd of 4,121 (one wonders what this team has to do to pull a crowd) had vivid memories of last week's match against the Northern Spirit, when the Strikers dropped their first points of the season.

The Power's equaliser should have come in the 74th minute when live-wire Griffiths beat Bolton, but could only send his shot to the right of the Strikers' goal.

Parramatta kept on the attack, but Bolton remained in fine form, thwarting all attempts at goal.

The crowd breathed a sigh of relief when referee Eddie Lennie awarded a penalty in the 80th minute.

To rub salt to the Power's wounds, defender Peter Bennett was sent off for a second yellow after handling the ball in the area.

Foster stepped up and took the spot kick, blasting the ball to the right of Crews. The goal was Foster's fourth in as many games, and the last of the match.

It ended 3-1 to Brisbane, and the Strikers regained top spot on the ladder.

Strikers coach John Kosmina put the win down to a bit of luck and the form of goalkeeper Clint Bolton.

"Bolton was outstanding tonight," he said.

Kosmina said the team could have played a lot better.

"I said last week after the Spirit game we'll play worse than that and still win, and that ended up being quite prophetic," he said.

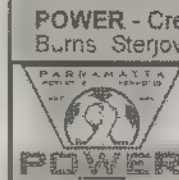
"Look at the way we played tonight. It could have been a lot better but it's the way it goes and we stuck to our guns."

"Had Jezza (Jeromy Harris) stuck that ball away before half time, it would have been 3-0 and a different game altogether."

MATCH STATS



BRISBANE STRIKERS:
Bolton, Davidson, Bell, Dutton, Pilo Foster, Dwyer, McLaren, Grierson, Harris (Baldwin 71'), Meredith
Subs not used: 3
Stefanutto, 15 Langone



POWER - Crews, Barrett, Eagleton, Burns, Sterjovski, Griffiths, Berry (Elrich 61'), Blagojevic, Campbell (Townsend 74'), Gibson, Bennett
Subs not used: Keiso

Yellows

Parramatta Dwyer 45' (BS), Bennett 29', Burns 45', Barrett 53', Sterjovski 55'

Reds

Parramatta Bennett 80' Second Yellow

Best Players:

- 1 - CLINT BOLTON (STRIKERS)
- 2 - Joel Griffiths (Power)
- 3 - Peter Grierson (Strikers)

Power coach Dave Mitchell said he could take a lot of positives away from the defeat.

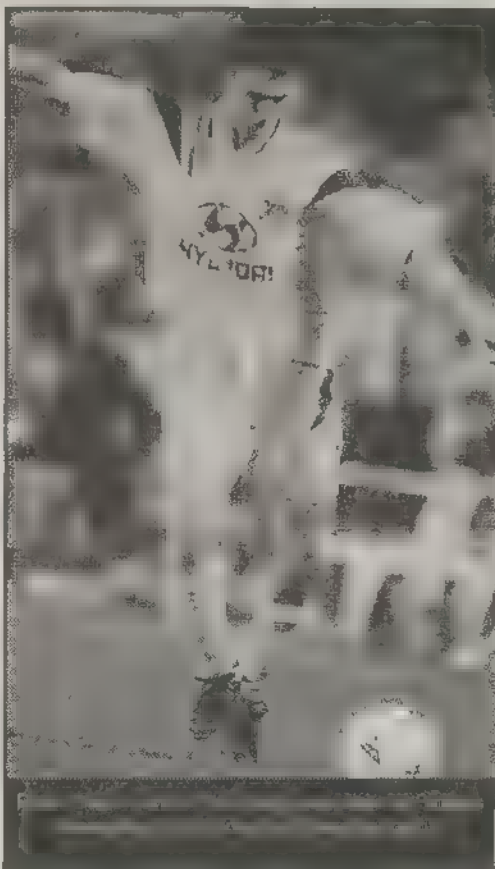
"I'm a lot happier with our performance today than I have been in previous weeks which is encouraging," he said.

"Obviously we're disappointed, but they're a very difficult team to come up here and play against."

Mitchell said his side struggled after conceding the two first half goals.

"We started quite dreadfully, and the two quick goals were a shock for us. But we started to get back into the game and in the second half we took it to them," he said.

"Once we got a goal back, I thought we were going to get another one up until the send off, which really killed the game for us."



Brisbane on the back foot as Griffiths forced Bolton into a great save in the 60th minute.

With only the keeper to beat, Griffiths' shot rebounded off Bolton's legs and into the path of John Gibson, who made a mess of what appeared to be an easy opportunity to score.

The pressure finally paid off in the 69th minute when Power captain Milan

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Hopkins' first win for Falcons



GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

Gotis 26

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

Saturday night at Mobil Park, Gippsland. Crowd, 1,850

MATCH STATS

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

Jevdjovic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Marcina (Savage 46), Vargas, Bell, Puca, Hutchinson (Hastie 76), Nilo, Kakos (MacNicol 86).



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod (Tomich 55), Dodd, Wilson, Angievski (Trpceviski 81), Juchniewicz, Buonavoglia (Tancheski 81), Harper.

Yellows:

Newcastle: Pryce, Harper, Dodd
Gippsland: Nilo, Bell, Jevdjovic

Best Players:

3 VARGAS (GIPPSLAND FALCONS)
2 Gotis (Gippsland Falcons)
1 Angievski (Newcastle Breakers)

By Luciano Viggiano

In greasy conditions at Mobil Park, the Gippsland Falcons resplendent in their Tibetan Monk hair-do's (see page 22) recorded their first victory of the season against a Newcastle side that came into the game undefeated.

The Falcons entered the game desperate to make amends for their poor performance against Sth Melbourne the previous week, and, had even resorted to spiritual guidance from a group of visiting Tibetan Monks in an attempt to get a much

needed victory on the board.

Newcastle on the other hand was looking to further consolidate on a solid start to their campaign.

The match began at a quick pace, with the conditions contributing to many passes going astray.

The Falcons looked a much more balanced side with their captain Mehmet Durakovic back from injury, marshalling the backline and offering a creative option going forward.

Jeff Hopkins had also included Peter Kakos up forward in his first start for the Falcons in an attempt to establish a striking partnership with the speedy Juan Nilo. Newcastle looked their usual solid combination with Pryce, Roberts and McManus standing tall at the back and the experienced Andy Harper up forward complemented by the diminutive and skilful John Buonavoglia.

With neither side gaining any ascendancy the first real chance of the game fell to Juan Nilo after 15 minutes who snuck in behind the Newcastle defence after a penetrating clearance from Gotis, only to see Catlin save well on the edge of the box low to his right.

Falcons had Newcastle on the back foot with the slippery conditions suiting the forward combination of Nilo and Kakos, who were being supported well by the in-form Vargas and hard running of Hutchinson and Bell in midfield.

This period of domination by the Falcons led to what was to be the only goal of the game in the 26 minute. A penetrating run down the wing by Marcina led to a free kick out on the right flank. Vargas delivered a trademark curling cross, taking Catlin out of the play and finding an unmarked Gotis at the far post with a powerful header. 1-0 Gippsland.

The Falcons continued to dominate

the midfield through Vargas and in the 35 minute, Nilo again found himself one-on-one with Catlin, only to hit the ball straight at the Newcastle keeper.

Newcastle hit back well towards the end of the half with Buonavoglia teasing the Falcons defence and Angievski hitting a powerful shot that just missed the target. Halftime 1-0 Gippsland Falcons.

The second half began much as the first half ended with Newcastle having the better of play with Wilson and Dodd taking control of the midfield.

Lee Sterrey introduced a third striker in Tomich at the 55 minute mark, the move put the Falcons onto the back foot and Newcastle experienced their best period of the game, drawing several corners.

Juchniewicz and Angievski were more involved in the game out wide for Newcastle, but the disciplined marking by the Falcons defenders prevented any clear cut goal scoring chance.

Sterrey played his final hand with a double substitution in the 81 minute bringing on Tancheski for Buonavoglia and former Falcons player Trpceviski for the exhausted Angievski.

The Falcons managed to hold out Newcastle and with the introduction of the experienced Hastie into midfield regained control of the match.

Hastie was introduced after Hutchinson was substituted following a heavy collision with Catlin outside the box.

In the end Falcons were unlucky not to score late in the game after Nilo yet again found himself behind the defence, this time setting up Vargas whose shot from the edge of the box was brilliantly tipped away by big Bob Catlin.

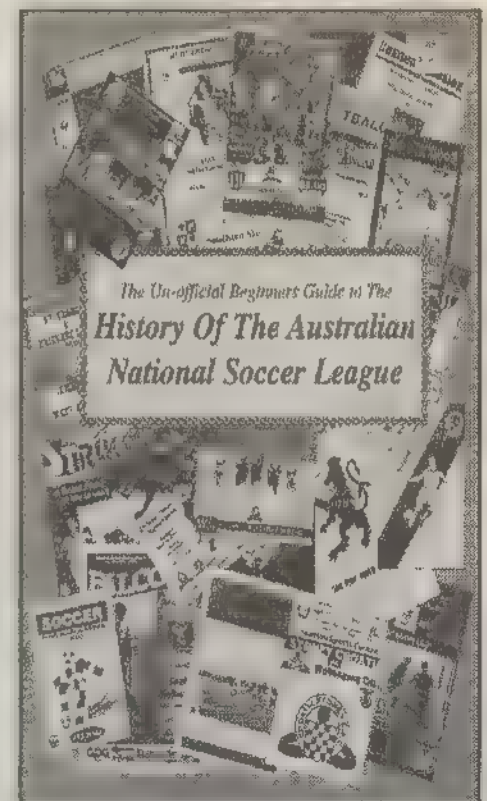
Overall, the final score was a fair reflection of the game with the Falcons creating the best chances on the night and Newcastle, although having an equal share of the play failing to create any real chances.

The best player on the night was the in-form Andy Vargas of the Falcons, his ball control and distribution from midfield was the constant source of attacking moves by the Falcons.

Manny Gotis as well as scoring the only goal of the game shut out the experi-

enced Andy Harper and dominated everything in the air.

For Newcastle, Robert Angievski was impressive, his hard running and ability to find space showed he is a player to watch in the coming months.



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Maloney and Marconi march on

MARCONI STALLIONS 2

Gibson 30, Trajanovski 90

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Sunday night at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 4,762



MATCH STATS:

MARCONI STALLIONS

Turnbull, Gibson, Kim (Care 22), McDonald, Babic, Maloney (Trajanovski 90+), Smith, Invincible, Farah, Karl (Marchcsini 58), Renaud

SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Udvaracz, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Orlic, Blatsis, Clarkson, Panopoulos (Liparoti 87), Curcija, Anastasiadis (Coveny 65), Magnacca Goutzioulis (Tsekini 45)

Yellows:

Marconi: Renaud 44, Babic 51, Gibson 73, South: Curcija 79, Magnacca 86, Liparoti 89

Best Player

3. MALONEY
2. Clarkson
1 McDonald

Referee: Gerry Connolly

goal and shot, Udvaracz tipping it over.

Blatsis was soon breaking from two weak tackles and running for a shot at the Marconi goal. From the clearance, Gibson provided a wonderful opportunity for Babic who incredibly failed to connect. Pretty soon it was Karl barely missing great chances - one from a Maloney cross, another from a deft Babic chip, just touched out of Karl's reach.

While Marconi's speed and accurate crossing provided the main attacking thrust, for South Melbourne it was fast, one-touch passing. Curcija, Magnacca and Clarkson were combining well. In the 22nd minute a series of clever passes provided a chance for Clarkson that forced Turnbull to make a diving save.

South Melbourne seemed to lack the thought in delivery obviously possessed by Maloney and McDonald. In the 24th minute Maloney dropped another marvellous chance in the path of Babic whose first touch let him down badly.

Soon it was McDonald almost giving Invincible a heading chance. Most worrying for Marconi was Turnbull's propensity to mistime his punches. On several occasions, if the South Melbourne strikers had been more nimble of foot, Turnbull could have been severely punished.

But it was a Renaud corner, touched on by Goutzioulis, that gave Gibson his goal on the half hour. His low shot wasn't hard but found its way past the defenders' legs and inside the left upright.

Marconi were almost two goals up two minutes later when Maloney met a swinging cross from McDonald on the left with a fierce header, barely kept out by the underside of the crossbar.

South Melbourne responded with two strong runs down the left: one by De Amicis winning a corner; another by Curcija, beating McDonald, then crossing over the penalty area.

The second half closed with McDonald pulling the ball back for a Renaud shot, followed by several Marconi corners and a half chance for Gibson. South Melbourne, meanwhile, stuck to the short passing game.

The second half saw strikers at either end, Anastasiadis and Babic, running hard to little effect. Chances fell to others.

In the 52nd minute McDonald, on the end of an Invincible cross, pulled two smart saves from Udvaracz, one from a header and the second when the ball fell to McDonald's feet.

For South Melbourne Clarkson was soon winning well, running down the right and hitting a curling cross - which Turnbull

missed. Curcija tormented Marconi on the edge of their area but, unable to get a shot in, let Tsekini have a go - the first of a couple wide of the mark.

A left foot shot from Renaud in the 64th minute was saved by Udvaracz's feet. Marconi's next chance resulted from a cross from Care. This was turned in by Renaud, met by Babic at the near post, palmed off by Udvaracz for a corner which was only kept out by the upright.

In the 68th minute it was two South Melbourne corners causing trouble.

The second fell to Curcija - twice -

game for a weary Maloney, who took advantage of an AWOL defender and stylishly scored the clincher. Babic, breaking down right midfield, picked out Trajanovski heading down the left.

The substitute looked to have taken the ball too close to the line and too close to the keeper. But, deciding against the early use of his left foot, he calmly tucked it in with his right - at an almost impossible angle past Udvaracz.

Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic after the game hesitantly admitted it was his team's best performance. He said he still wanted to improve on a few things but was satisfied.



By Steven Webb

Ange Postecoglou is clearly tired of references to the World Club Championship. "We have zero discussion on it," he says.

But losses like this make you wonder

And this week Marconi supporters are facetiously claiming theirs is one of the best teams in the world.

South Melbourne weren't a two goal worse side. But Marconi deserved its last minute, second goal; icing on a hard-wrought and tasty cake.

Fans who stayed away after days of steady rain will be kicking themselves. The sun emerged an hour before kickoff and the ground, slippery at first, held up well enough for both sides to attempt fast, enterprising football compliments to the ground staff.

Notable from the start was Brad Maloney's presence for Marconi and the absence of injured Trimboli and Lozanovski for South Melbourne.

South Melbourne, nevertheless, started by taking the game to the home side. Two balls early on, one from a Clarkson cross, almost fell for Anastasiadis in threatening positions. Another through ball to Anastasiadis, after a midfield error by Kim, had to be mopped up by Invincible.

While Kim and Smith were looking wobbly at the back, Maloney was everywhere and doing everything up front. His first decent touch came in the ninth minute: a ball through to Babic who was closed down on the edge of South's penalty area.

A minute later Maloney snapped in a shot from 25 metres - along the ground and hard for Udvaracz to collect. Another minute later McDonald held his feet on Marconi's right flank, turned well and crossed to Maloney's feet. Maloney ran at

blocked then smothered by Turnbull

For Marconi, Babic glanced a near post header across goal and Marchcsini wasn't quite tall enough when Babic later crossed after a strong run down the right following some cool work by McDonald out of defence.

McDonald wasn't so cool in the 76th minute when he concluded a long break down the middle of the pitch with a weak shot. A minute later, Gibson finished his own powerful run with a hard, rising shot that had to be punched clear.

In the 83rd minute Marconi were stringing passes together very neatly, carving the South Melbourne defence, and setting up Maloney for a threatening chip into the South Melbourne goalmouth.

With both sides hunting for a goal and the tackling getting vigorous, the yellow cards were flashing. Liparoti earned his after only two minutes on the pitch.

South Melbourne, despite a fair share of possession and the likes of Clarkson working hard to the end, couldn't get the best of Marconi's mobile backline.

It was Marconi's Kris Trajanovski, coming on in the dying minutes of the

He was pleased with Care, mobile in defence and fast coming out. Gibson, he said, was looking like a "complete footballer, playing midfield, defence and scoring goals."

He also mentioned Maloney's brilliant leadership and organisation and Trajanovski's good utility play. The defence played well, he thought, and all-in-all it was a good sharp, team effort.

For his part, Postecoglou wouldn't blame or praise any individuals. He attributed the loss to general lapses in concentration. "In patches we played quite well, but there's no point playing in patches. We've got to play well for 90 minutes and we've got to put in an effort for 90 minutes and concentrate for 90 minutes and when we don't we're as ordinary as any other team in the league."

He said when South Melbourne were inconsistent people were going to look for reasons and "this other commitment we've got" was the most obvious one. While he didn't think the World Championship was the problem, three losses out of five games, when they lost only four last season, was not good enough.

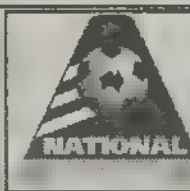
Biskic safe as Knights finally break the drought

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

Trupkovic 37

SYDNEY UNITED 0

Sunday afternoon at Knights Stadium. Crowd 3,500



MATCH STATS

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Rahjer (Magdic 54), Kovacevic (Vassallo 76), Nastevski, Trupkovic (Urlovic 79), Banini, Kiratzoglou, Vargas, Susa, Reda, Cervinski



SYDNEY UNITED

Hughes, Racker (Moric 76) Kupresak, Bosnar, Savocca, Moric (Deak 71), Pondeljak, Rastall, Bosevski, Jun, (Zec 46)

Yellows:

Sydney United Racker 50, Bosevski 82.

Best Player:

- 3 - SUSA (KNIGHTS)
- 2 - Cervinski (Knights)
- 1 - Kiratzoglou (Knights)

Referee: David Dwight

By Mark Fisher

There seemed to be more than just three points riding on the result at Knights Stadium on Sunday, where the Melbourne Knights sought to turn their fortunes around against Sydney United. A pressure-relieving 1-0 win to the home side has coach Joe Biskic



hopeful of better things to come, especially now that his attack has been strengthened by the return of Adrian Cervinski.

The Knights were desperate to rush Cervinski into their starting lineup, particularly as they had only managed two goals in four matches prior to this one.

Both he and Zeljko Susa helped to

largely outplay Sydney United for most of the match.

Biskic later acknowledged his forward's contributions by saying "he made a lot of difference and gave us some strength up front".

The match proved that the Knights are capable of confident, clever football every now and then, yet will probably still struggle against some of the form teams of the competition during the season.

The Knights were keen to show off their Celtic-style away strip to their home supporters.

Even the Federal Leader for the Opposition, Mr Kim Beazley, turned out in green-and-white hoops! His main aim, however, was to make a pre-match push for the Republic vote to be conducted the following weekend.

The match got under way with the Knights determined to make an impression early. Alex Kiratzoglou made some swift incursions down the right flank, causing headaches for United's defender Mark Racker.

His good work was occasionally brought undone when his crosses couldn't find a forward to latch onto them.

Cervinski and Sydney's Vince Savocca entertained as they duelled it out for possession in the centre, with the Knights player largely holding sway in order to set up some promising opportunities in attack.

The whole team seemed to be more upbeat in their approach, as demonstrated by some slick passing between Susa and Alex Kiratzoglou allowing the latter to cross to Michael Reda in the 13th minute near goal, but in the end his header went wide.

Kiratzoglou had a solo effort thwarted in the 22nd minute, when his jinking run inside allowed him some space to shoot from about 20 metres out, but United's new keeper (signed from Marconi) in Brett Hughes had it safely covered.

It wasn't all one way traffic in the first half, with the former Knights midfielder Tom Pondeljak backing himself with a 30-metre thunderbolt eight minutes later. He hit it so sweetly that Martin John in the Knights' goal juggled the stinging strike.

Ante Moric also showed glimpses of his solid form from three seasons prior, by sending a neat cross right into danger territory in front of the goal, but unfortunately for this team the big veteran Velimir Kupresak was unable to connect.

Finally the deadlock was broken when Cervinski fired a shot from 25 metres out, which, after flicking the keeper's hand and rebounding off the crossbar, presented an easy header into the net for Mijo Trupkovic.

The much-deserved goal gave the Knights the winning edge about 37 minutes into the match. The fans in the Mark Viduka Stand erupted with a roar of pleasure as their team had capitalised on their best opportunity of the match.

The Knights were clearly not content to go into the break quietly thereafter, with Kovacevic working the 'give-and-go' with Trupkovic near the edge of the box.

Trupkovic's return pass however eluded Kovacevic as he slipped into



space between two of United's back men.

Rody Vargas helped ensure there would be no reply from the Sydneysiders late in the half, as he worked hard to shackle the pacy striker Nick Bosevski.

After the break, United came out hard to try and break down Banini, Vargas and Kovacevic at the back for the Knights. They looked like coming close to scoring in the first ten minutes of the second half.

Their best chance of the match came when Bosevski turned provider to Pondeljak in the 52nd minute, who then saw his shot fly just wide of the post.

Apart from that though, the Knights worked hard not to relinquish their pressure on the visitors.

Ante Kovacevic broke forward to shoot low at goal, but Hughes' little fumble was quickly gathered in to deny the on-rushing Cervinski a goal to his name in the 66th minute.

Cervinski had also missed an opportunity to score just a minute earlier. A driving ball forward by Vargas was gladly accepted by flank-patroller Paul Magdic.

Magdic then centred the ball inside to Cervinski, but he slipped over inside the area when met by the closing Sydney United defence.

The last ten minutes of the match fizzled out into a game of hopeful long shots, none of which coming close to testing either goalkeeper.

The final whistle signalled a hard-

earned home win, giving the Knights coach something of a reprieve from the pressure of consecutive losses.

The Knights will go on to meet South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium next week, which should be a far more daunting challenge for them, considering that the Lakesiders are the reigning champions and will be fired up to climb back into top six contention.

Sydney United coach David Ratcliffe was understandably disappointed with his loss to a side sitting at the bottom of the league ladder.

He described his team's effort as "the worst we have played all season". He indicated that he is looking forward to the return of Ray Younis (suspension) and Aytec Genc (injury) in order to strengthen his lineup, but suggested that, as with the Knights, his team lacked real depth.

Joe Biskic will have Ivan Kelic returning to the fold next week, which should provide him with added optimism concerning his attacking options.

With his job no longer on the line, surely this win has bought Biskic more time to exert influence over his team, in order to make them gel as a unit.

Had the Knights lost, then that prospect would have seemed close to unattainable.

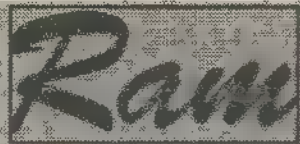
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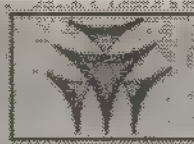
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INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



A.I.S HIT ANOTHER SIX PAST BREAKERS

Richard Beazley reports that the Australian Institute of Sport continued their unbeaten streak with an emphatic 6-0 win over Newcastle Breakers Youth team on a wet Saturday evening in Canberra.

The match was 9 minutes old when John Cvetanoski drove a first time volley from 20 metres out past Newcastle's goalkeeper Bradley Swancott who had partially cleared a Danny Vasilevski free kick. However, it was as early as the 3rd minute when the AIS had their first real scoring chance which saw captain Grant Last hit his shot just over the bar.

In the 12th minute the AIS pushed further ahead with Kevo Gulesserian cutting a delightful ball back from near the goal line to Elias Demourtzidis whose first-time shot gave Swancott no chance.

Newcastle pushed forward in trying to cut the margin, however the AIS defence based sweeper Steven Mrkela's rock-like performance held firm together. Mrkela was also in the action at the other end in the 32nd minute when a rocket from Mrkela from 30 metres out was well saved by Swancott.

It was late into the first half when the AIS pulled further ahead when Gulesserian beat the offside trap to take the score to 3-0. The fourth goal came just before the break when Vasilevski was fouled inside the area and he converted the spot-kick.

The Newcastle team came out after the break intent of coming back into the game and played a very good offside trap to frustrate the AIS strikers.

However, Newcastle's attack lacked penetration in the front third and the AIS's ex-Newcastle goalkeeper Peter Wood was rarely troubled.

At the other end, Swancott pulled off superb saves in the 48th and 56th minutes when Mrkela and Vasilevski looked to have him beaten.

Newcastle paid the penalty for pushing forward when Demourtzidis scored his second goal in the 62nd minute when he chipped the advancing goalkeeper to take the score to 5-0.

Demourtzidis scored his third goal, and the final one for the match, when his low shot beat Swancott.

The AIS's Gulesserian was taken to hospital late in the match after a tackle which saw him fall and dislocate his shoulder. Initial indications are that he will miss 2-4 weeks.

Best for the AIS was Mrkela, Last, Demourtzidis and Vasilevski whilst Newcastle's best was their goalkeeper Swancott who made several fine saves throughout the match.

AIS: Wood, Mrkela (Talevski), Graham, Sullivan, Brodie, Gulesserian (Bajurin), Last, Bryett, Cvetanoski (Wells), Demourtzidis, Vasilevski.

Newcastle: Swancott, Wheeler, Ferguson, Gazzard, Kemp, Vitullo, Simpson, Grenell, Cook, Ross, Wiczorek.

Chris Conti reports that the ACTAS and Wollongong Wolves Colts delivered a very entertaining game of football last Friday night at Bruce Stadium and in the end shared the points, although the ACT Academy of Sport could rightfully feel more disappointed at not taking all three points.

And they would have, if it had not been for a fantastic display of goalkeeping from the imposing Daniel Beltrame and two freakish goals.

The Wolves were playing their maximum number of overage players - in addition to Beltrame, Paul Dimech, Chad Bishop and Christian Zelvis were in the starting line up. Zelvis was continuing his impressive comeback after suffering a broken leg playing for the Australian

Schoolboys against Fiji in January. ACTAS were giving a run to Cosmos, Nick Purdue, also returning after injury.

Wollongong began very brightly and Bishop and Zelvis were beginning to create a number of chances down the left flank. In the tenth minute the Wolves took the lead when Bishop swung over a cross which deceived Rade Kosanovic in the ACTAS goal and curled in the top left hand corner. This spurred the ACTAS into life and Paul Ivanic fed Carl Valen whose intelligent right foot shot brought a spectacular save from Beltrame, and a minute later Purdue shot just wide. ACTAS were continuing to create chances and from the best one of these Adam Williams shot weakly straight at Beltrame. After half an hour the ACTAS striker Daniel Aliffi, who was giving the Wolves' central defenders headaches, made a good turn, and fed Ivanic who shot just wide again. In the 35th minute Beltrame was finally beaten - ACTAS captain, Matt Julianne sent over a pin-point cross to Williams, standing alone on the penalty spot and he coolly slotted the ball home. The half finished with Beltrame continuing to keep the ACTAS out, denying Ivanic and Williams again.

The second half began with Valen determinedly winning a ball from the Wolves defence, and putting Aliffi through - again Beltrame came to the rescue with a fine diving save. Then after five minutes (about the same time that Wolves had scored their goal in the first half) the Wolves scored one of the most bizarre goals ever seen at Bruce Stadium. A number of ACTAS and Wolves players competed for the ball about 40 metres from the ACTAS goal, when suddenly the ball cannoned from Stephen Kemp's shins and the Academy midfielder could only watch in disbelief as the ball eluded Kosanovic's despairing dive and rolled into the net.

That set up a period where Wolves spiritedly defended with their backs against the wall and more heroics from Beltrame, making a series of fine saves, particularly from Ivanic and Aliffi. Tempers became a little frayed and referee, Ben Naughton issued yellow cards to ACTAS' Amied Shadmaan and Wolves' Craig Smith for over zealous tackles. However, in the 75th minute the ACTAS equalised following good work from Williams on the right, his cross eluded Beltrame and before Ivanic could convert, the ball was turned in to his own goal by Dimech.

The ACT Academy now turned up the pressure and in the remaining minutes it seemed that they would score the winner, following some good work by Ivanic, Goran Veljanovski who had replaced Valen, allowed the ball to run to Kemp who had only Beltrame to beat. Beltrame's massive frame must have loomed even larger as the ACTAS midfielder's shot was weak and saved by the keeper. There was only time left for Beltrame to deny Veljanovski, and the game finished 2-2.

ACT Academy of Sport: Rade Kosanovic, Amied Shadmaan, Nick Purdue, Phil Yarnold, Dom Labutte, Stephen Kemp, Adam Williams, Matt Julianne (Goran Veljanovski), Daniel Aliffi, Carl Valen (Rohan Coleman), Paul Ivanic.

Wollongong Wolves Colts: Daniel Beltrame, Craig Smith, Paul Dimech, Dimitri Zailas, Peter Peralta (Panathis Tzolakis), Michael Peros, Chad Bishop, Nelson Louang-Amath (Joe Cachia), Mathew Parker, Deam McKechnie (Sam Keramia), Christian Zelvis.

Best Players:
ACTAS: Aliffi, Valeri, Williams.
Wolves: Beltrame, Bishop, Zelvis.

In the Southern Division Roy Hay reports that Carlton completed its second win in the Southern Division by four goals to one against South

Melbourne in windy conditions on a sandy pitch at Hosken Reserve.

Carlton started fiercely with Steve Martin getting a yellow card in the second minute, but took the lead in 21 minutes. Dusko Delic made the break from midfield and exchanged passes with Deniz Ekici before firing a grounder past Chris Jones.

Tass Psonis of South Melbourne created a couple of chances for his side, but both were spurned. Nick Tolios over-hit a ball and followed through on his opponent earning another yellow card for Carlton, while Pat Kochorbo had to be taken off with ligament damage.

Six minutes after the interval Ekici anticipated a long ball from the left and finished very coolly, then Angelo Moutsopoulos pursued another pass through the defence and just nipped it past the keeper as he came out. Former Carlton striker Jovanco Novacevski then split the defence with a typical surging run ending with a well placed shot beyond the reach of Adrian Cagalj.

There was just time for Moutsopoulos to finish off a free kick from substitute Ace Stojcevski before the referee blew for full time. Carlton was always in control and South coach John Kennedy admitted before the game that his squad needed a few games under its belt before it will show its true ability.

Melbourne Knights had its second huge win, this time by nine goals to one against Preston Lions. Yet the Lions scored first through Simon Petkovski after only six minutes, but the threat of an upset did not last long.

Jasmin Sehic equalised after 15 minutes and Ivan Gelemanovic put the Knights in front in 21. A goal by Jure Radosevic in 40 minutes and a penalty by Anthony Pelikan just before half-time meant a four-one lead to the home team. When Chris Tabak added a fifth in 57 and Carmelo Impiombato the sixth in 61 minutes the fight went out of the Preston youngsters and substitute Josip Loncaric added two goals on either side of another penalty this time converted by Sehic.

Bulleen Inter recorded its second victory in a close fought match with the Melbourne Knights Academy by two goals to one. Adam Curcija's strike in five minutes set Bulleen on its way, but a series of chances were ignored and the Academy was always in contention.

Hrvoje Matkovic equalised for the Academy in 56 minutes but then defender Josef Damiano made a run from the back to set up Luigi Gullacci for the winner two minutes later. Damiano and Berkan Sakaci were the pillars of the Bulleen defence. Matkovic put a free kick into the net for the Academy but unfortunately it was an indirect one and did not count.

Zlatko Maglic, Daniel Piorkowski and keeper Matthew McCarthy were the Academy stars, with the keeper deserving a lot of praise for keeping the score down when Bulleen did threaten.

Gippsland Falcons left it very late before scraping home by two goals to one against South Dandenong at Mobil Stadium on Saturday. All the goals came in the last fifteen minutes and it was South Dandenong which made the breakthrough from the penalty spot after 76 minutes. Thomas Perry scored twice for the Falcons in 82 and 85 minutes to snatch victory.

Albury Wodonga picked up its first point in a one-all draw at home to Fawknor Blues. In very wet and heavy conditions, but on an excellent surface at Alexandra Park, Fawknor took the lead after 14 minutes with an own goal by the borderers after a good attack by the Blues.

The second half saw Albury Wodonga get into its stride and it gained a deserved equaliser through David Martin with four minutes left to play.

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
A.I.S.	5	5	0	0	26	1	15	25
Parramatta Power	5	5	0	0	19	1	15	18
Sydney Olympic	3	2	0	0	8	1	9	6
Q.A.S.	4	2	1	2	15	5	7	10
Northern Spirit Colts	4	2	1	1	6	3	7	3
Northern Spirit	4	2	1	1	6	5	7	1
Wollongong Wolves	4	2	0	2	3	6	6	-3
A.C.T.A.S.	4	1	2	1	7	11	5	-4
N.S.W.I.S.	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	0
Sydney United Colts	5	1	1	3	7	11	4	-4
Marconi Stallions	2	2	0	1	2	6	3	-4
Syd Olympic Acad	3	1	0	2	7	13	3	-4
Newcastle Breakers	5	1	0	4	1	9	3	-8
Marconi Colts	3	0	1	2	0	8	1	-8
Sydney United	2	0	1	1	0	9	1	-9
Wollongong Colts	4	0	1	3	4	14	1	-10
Newcastle Colts	4	0	0	4	3	11	0	-8

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	2	2	0	0	17	3	6
Carlton	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Bulleen Inter Kings	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Gippsland Falcons	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
VIS	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Fawknor Blues	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
South Dandenong	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Albury Wodonga	2	0	1	1	3	9	1
Melb Knights Academy	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
South Melbourne	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Preston Lions	2	0	0	2	1	14	0

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

ACTAS 2	Wollong. Wolves Colts 2
Williams 35	Bishop 10
Own goal 74	Own goal 50
Sydney U Colts 0	Marconi Colts 0
Northern Spirit 1	Sydney Olympic 2
R. Griffiths 78	Carle 8
	Tome 52
QAS 1	Parramatta Power 2
Miner 25	Gatt 48
	Angelucci 56
N. Spirit Colts 2	NSWIS 1
Fana 22	Martin 76
Majurovski 89	
AIS 6	Newcastle Breakers 0
Demourtzidis 10, 65, 72	
Cvetanoski 8	
Gulesserian 37	
Syd. Olympic Academy v Sydney United - Postponed	
Marconi Stallions v Breakers Colts - Postponed	

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Albury Wodonga 1	Fawknor Blues 1
David Martin	
own goal	
Gippsland Falcons 2	South Dandenong 1
Thomas Perry 2	
Bulleen Inter 2	Melb Knights Academy 1
Adam Curcija	Hrvoje Matkovic
Luigi Gullacci	
Carlton 4	South Melbourne 1
Moutsopoulos 2	Ekici
Delic, Novacevski	
Deniz	
Melbourne Knights 9	Preston Lions 1
Sehic 2, Loncaric 2,	Petkovski
Gelemanovic, Tabak,	
Pelikan, Radosevic,	
Impiombato	

Big year for Australian Schools Soccer with UK tour coming up

This year has been an extremely busy year for Australian Schools Soccer. January saw both Boys and Girls teams undertake tours to New Zealand and the Boys extended for a short tour of Fiji.

August saw the successful National Championships in Canberra from which three teams were selected to represent Australia. For the first time two Boys teams were selected due to the hectic international schedule this year as well as the Australian Schoolgirls team.

September saw the Australian Schoolboys team play New Zealand in Brisbane, winning the two match series on aggregate. This team will also tour Fiji to play 4 internationals against the Fijian Under 17 and Under 20 teams in January 2000

However, in late November the Australian Schoolboys and Schoolgirls teams will come together in Sydney to prepare for an extensive tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland that will finish nearly 4 weeks later

Both teams will be travelling together for the majority of the tour - only splitting when the Girls travel to Scotland and the Boys play internationals in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The schedules for both teams are hectic but exciting, with both playing a number of full internationals. The Girls are playing three internationals against Wales Schools, Wales Colleges and Scotland Schools while the Boys are will play Wales Schools, Wales Colleges, Ireland Schools, Northern Ireland Schools and England Colleges.

In the tradition of previous schools tours the teams are being billeted during their first week in England and during their stay in Wales.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for all those involved." Media Liaison for Australian Schools Soccer, Richard Beazley explained to "Inside Soccer".

"For many of these players it is their first opportunity to represent Australia and for a number of these it is possibly their first step towards an overseas professional career and possibly also a first step towards playing at U20, Olympic or Senior levels for Australia."

Beazley only knows this too well. On the Australian Schoolboys last tour to Europe a 17 year old player named Marco Bresciano was player of the tour.

Within weeks of his return after the

tour he successfully trialled for an AIS scholarship and within months went on to play for the Joeys. Bresciano has since played for the Under 20 and Olympic teams as well as having been selected as a squad member for the Socceroos against the United States in 1998. "We already know that a number of the players from this year's teams have been noticed by scouts from UK clubs," Beazley stated. "It will be up to the players now whether or not their ambitions of playing overseas as professionals are to be realised."

Pre-tour training commences on Saturday November 27 and the team flies out to London to commence the tour on Tuesday 30 November. The party will return to Sydney on Thursday 23 December.

Joeys' south america trip: 'Players coming of age,' says Scheinflug



The Australian Under-17 Soccer team fought out a 1-1 draw with UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE, in the second game of the Chilean leg of the current South American tour last week.

Missing two key players, Louis Brain and Dylan Macallister through injury, still without Shane Cansdell Sherriff and Bradley Groves who join the team for the Argentine leg, and without the Italian based Adrian Madeschi who rejoins the LG Joeys for the two games against Argentina, the Australians put up a valiant show against their more experienced

opponents.

Universidad, who currently leads the local competition in Chile, fielded just two Under-17 players for this game, the side made up of five first-team players including the goalkeeper.

Despite their many attempts, the LG Joeys were unable to crack the Universidad defence in the first half. Scott McDonald's header tipped over the bar in the 11th minute, a Lucas Pantelis free kick heading into the top corner only to be parried in the 20th minute, and Wayne Srhoj seeing his header well saved in the 30th

The Australians went down 1-nil in the 34th minute, but their continued hard work in the second half eventually paid off seven minutes from full time, McDonald finally getting past the Universidad goalkeeper to earn the LG Joeys a 1-1 draw.

"This game was all about the players coming of age," said coach Les Scheinflug after the game.

"Their opposition was far more senior and well seasoned than any other we've encountered so far on this tour, and while the boys found it tough, they were well organized, handled themselves well and I was pleased with the effort."

**LG JOEYS 1 (Scott McDonald 83')
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 1**

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:

Jess Van Strattan (gk); Shane Lockhart, Mark Byrnes, Aaron Goulding,



Jade North, Lucas Pantelis, James Johnson, Wayne Srhoj, Anthony Doumanis, Joe Di Iorio (Joshua Kennedy 58'), Scott McDonald.

The Australian Under-17 soccer team suffered its first loss of the Chilean leg on the current South American tour, going down to Universidad Catolica 2-1 in Santiago last Thursday.

The LG Joeys were up against a mixture of first team, reserve and U-20 players from one of Chile's best known and strongest clubs, and were given one of

their toughest workouts so far on tour.

With little luck penetrating the tough defense, the LG Joeys went down a goal in the 29th minute after a shot from 30 metres out guard caught everyone, including keeper Jess Van Strattan off guard.

Australia continued to try and find a way through in the second half, with the persistence finally paying off in the 78th minute, Joshua Kennedy whipping over a cross from the right to find Lucas Pantelis, who's volley leveled the game at 1-1.

Those celebrations were short lived however when just a minute later, a rocket of a shot from 40 metres rattled into the top corner, to give Catolica a 2-1 lead, and eventually the game.

**LG JOEYS 1 (Lucas Pantelis 78')
UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA 2**

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:

Jess Van Strattan (gk); Shane Lockhart, Mark Byrnes, Aaron Goulding, Jade North, Lucas Pantelis, James Johnson, Wayne Srhoj (Joshua Kennedy 56'), Anthony Doumanis, Scott McDonald, Joe Di Iorio

The LG Joeys now move onto Argentina for the final leg of the tour, the first of the two match series against the Argentine Under-17s scheduled for Saturday 30th October (South American time)

Olympic Coach Raul Blanco has named a 20-man Squad, for the second overseas Olyroo camp, to be held in Tunisia in November

THE LG UNDER-23 SQUAD IS:

Name	Club	Position
Joe Diduca	Ajax (Holland)	Goalkeeper
Danny Milosevic	Perth Glory (Australia)	Goalkeeper
Hayden Foxe (C)	Sanfrecce (Japan)	Defender
Stephen Laybutt	Hiratsuka (Japan)	Defender
Chris Coyne	West Ham (England)	Defender
Con Blatts	South Melbourne	Defender
Lucas Neil Millwall	(England)	Defender
Ivan Zelic	Adelaide Force	Defender
Tanisel Baser	Trabzonspor (Turkey)	Defender
Jacob Burns	Parramatta Power	Midfielder

Jason Culina	Ajax (Holland)	Midfielder
Vince Grella	Empoli (Italy)	Midfielder
Marco Bresciano	Empoli (Italy)	Midfielder
Bil. Damianos	Xanthi (Greece)	Midfielder
Tim Cahill	Millwall (England)	Midfielder
Daniel Allsop	Manchester City (England)	Striker
Kosta Salapasidis	SD Compostela (Spain)	Striker
Michael Curcija	South Melbourne	Striker
Mile Sterjovski	Parramatta Power	Striker (nght)
Zeljko Susa	Melbourne Knights	Striker

The Olyroo Camp will be held from November 8 to 18 inclusive, with two games set down against the Tunisian Olympic Team.

The good news is that highly-rated Millwall midfielder Tim Cahill is in the squad, and he is hopeful of overcoming some problems when he represented an Oceania nation when he was a teenager



INSIDE SOCCER'S NSL ALL-STARS OCTOBER 1999

SQUAD MEMBERS

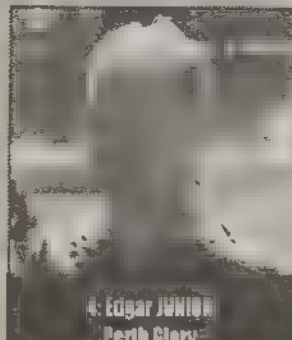
Tony Franken (Glory)
Dean Ergin (Glory)
John Hutchinson (Falcon)
Ivo de Jesus (Cosmos)
Daniel Watkins (Cosmos)
Scott Miller (Glory)
Fred de Jong (Kings)
Dino Merodio (Kings)
David McPherson (Warrior)



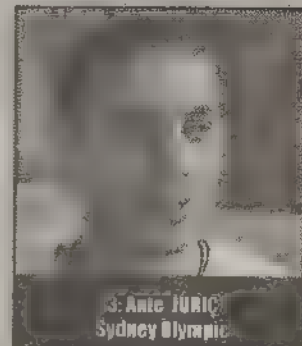
2. Lindsay WILSON
Sydney Olympic



3. Shane PRYCE
Newcastle Breakers



4. Edgar JUNIOR
Perth Glory



5. Ante JURIC
Sydney Olympic



6. Con BOUTSIANIS
Perth Glory

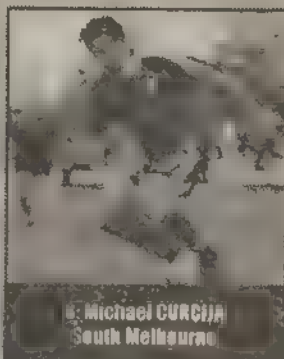


7. Andrew MARTH
Carlton SC



8. Matt LANGDON
Northern Spirit

TEAM ADMIN
Media Manager: David Mason (Spirit)
Team Manager: Kenzie Mersjades
(Soccer Australia/NSW Fed)
Supporters' Club: Spirit, Bob Standers and
Glory's The Shed



9. Michael CURCIJA
South Melbourne



10. Sean BABIC
Marconi Stallions



11. Paul FOSTER
Wagga Wanderers

The NS Selectors explain their squad

Inside Soccer's selectors fronted a packed (!) media conference to explain their choices. This is what they had to say about their selected first eleven.

BOBBY CATLIN (keeper): Very hard to separate him from Tony Franken - both are good examples of keepers getting better with age. Catlin instils an enormous amount of confidence into a Newcastle defence that is already rock solid. He is in the best form of his life. Amazing to think Marconi let him go.

EDGAR JUNIOR (libero): Bernd Stange's shrewd eye picked him out after a trial prior to the season. A gem of a player with immaculate on the ball skills and distribution.

SHANE PRYCE (central defence): Not often this player is recognised at national level. Is indicative of Newcastle's improving fortunes - is cool under pressure and a real leader on and off the park. Scores his share of goals too.

ANTE JURIC (central

defence): Another defender who likes to attack, and score. He showed in WYC 93 what potential he has, and only this year have we seen him fulfill this talent after some years in the lower leagues overseas.

ANDREW MARTH (screener): An unbelievable season at Carlton. The arrival of the 'Bnt Pack' has brought out the best in him. A scorer and a genuine hardman, he is playing some of the best stuff of his career right now for the high-flying Carlton.

CON BOUTSIANIS (free-roaming midfielder): A sublime free-kick specialist who has been given a free rein at Glory and is responding with goals from all over the park. A wonderfully skilful player who has recovered well after his axing by South Melbourne.

LYNDSAY WILSON (right wingback): The Young Soccerroo showed at WYC 99 he is capable of big things - very much in the Jason Culina mould.

SEAN BABIC (behind front two): His Soccerroo selection vin-

dicating what many people think about this speedster with a good eye for goal. Is revelling at Krncevic's Marconi

MICHAEL CURCIJA (central striker): Has hit a wonderful goal streak in October. Is a current Olyroo who would love the sort of service a Langdon wide could provide.

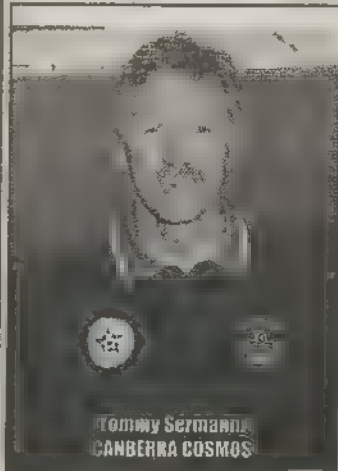
PAUL FOSTER (central striker): Who would have thought after a disastrous and brief spell at Spirit last year. Is one of the main reasons why Strikers have done so well. Formerly a high-scoring player in Hong Kong, he has players like Grierson around him now which should help him score even more.

MATT LANGDON (left wingback): It's been a disastrous year for Spirit so far, especially at home. One bright light has been Matt Langdon's work down the left. Clearly he is showing the benefits of last year's extended run in the first team.

THE COACHES



Lee Sterrey
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS



Tommy Sermanni
CANBERRA COSMOS

This season we are seeing the emergence of some bright new names on our coaching lists of the NSL.

One of those is our head coach for our All-Stars: Newcastle Breakers supremo LEE STERREY.

His record in 1999 is phenomenal. Breakers almost reached the six last year, on a shoe-string budget.

This year, with the added funds of new owner David Hall, and some shrewd signings, Breakers under the likeable and knockabout Sterrey have continued up the ladder, despite a 1-0 loss on the weekend.

His assistant is another coach who has done wonders with very few resources TOMMY SERMANNI, like Sterrey has guided a low-budget club to a respectable top six or so spot.

Similarly the likeable Scot's 1999 record is superb.

Two quality coaches who deserve the accolades.

Continued from page 5

J.G. You could say our players just didn't perform to their capabilities. Defensively, we were fairly ordinary and players were also played out of position.

R.S. Is it ironic that Mile Sterjovski's was the main man at Sydney United last year and you're now the main attacking force at Parramatta Power?

J.G. Things are working well for me as my fitness levels are up so I'm not giving the coach a reason to leave me out.

R.S. If that's the case, why were you substituted against Melbourne Knights when most people agreed you were having a great game?

J.G. I was carrying a slight injury but I admit I was happy with my form on the night so only the coaching staff could explain why I was taken off.

R.S. Your performance against Canberra was outstanding, despite the team's loss, when you really showed genuine pace and that vital ability to shield and hold the ball up with ease. What do you attribute the improvement in these facets of your game?

J.G. During the off-season I've built up my strength by adding body weight and that's also given me added power in the short sprint. Also the move to full-time training where we have at least six training sessions a week has really made me sharper and given me time to work on all parts of my game.

R.S. Can you explain the reasons for the team's inconsistent performances to date?

J.G. Our defensive pattern hasn't been up to scratch and that's not about blaming individual defenders. We're making basic errors by not picking up players moving into space in our defensive third and not marking tightly in the box. This tends to frustrate the strikers who are battling so hard up front to put the ball away.

R.S. What's your opinion of your five-



man midfield because at the moment it doesn't seem very mobile?

J.G. We do play with two wing backs who are suppose to feed the front men but the truth is we're not getting enough service to really threaten opposing defences. However, against Canberra when Ahmed Eldrick came on things did start to happen.

R.S. What do you suggest can turn the team's fortunes round?

J.G. We certainly need big performances from Blagojevic, Burns and Sterjovski and tactically we'll be making changes in the next few games which hopefully will make the team perform as a strong unit rather than a bunch of individuals?

R.S. What does the future hold, and when will you be going overseas?

J.G. At the moment I'm enjoying my football with Parramatta so my main concern is to have a successful season. As far as the overseas experience, I would like to try it but I'd be wanting to play in the top flight in Belgium, Holland or France, not in a second or third division club.

One thing is for sure; they'll be lining up for Griffiths' signature when he decides to take the plunge.

Continued from page three

"I had a publishing background so I knew how to do it well and I deliberately played things up, because I had to.

"I needed it at the time because I didn't have a big profile coming in from overseas or anything like that and I knew good results would not be good enough.

"Now I don't need the media any more, and I don't want it any more.

"Now I've put a few runs on the board and now it's a case of if you don't want me, OK that's fine by me."

Despite missing a role in the national team coaching set-up that he was as good as promised by a previous administration, Culina insists there is no sour grapes

There is, however a caustic tone to Culina's voice when analyzing his place in the game.

"The thing is that people hear that Branko Culina is this and that and they believe it," he explained.

"And often I've never even spoken to that person.

"I don't think people really know me, although in many ways I don't really care

"Unfortunately I'm not one who'll go out there and out of my way to make friends.

"I'm honest and I won't go out and bullshit to people.

"Some people see me as arrogant, or they see me as ranting and raving and they'll accept that as who I am.

"Probably half the problem is that I don't go out drinking with the boys

"But I certainly have tried to open my arms to colleagues in the game because as far as I'm concerned we can all learn from each other."

The one obvious career goal which has eluded Culina during stints with the Melbourne Knights, Sydney United, Canberra Cosmos and now Olympic has been the elusive NSL championship.

Despite maintaining unswerving pride in Sydney United's one very special 1996/97 minor premiership-winning campaign, you sense that he'd still like

the major prize.

That one special summer United roared away from the pack by winning its opening nine games and, after a slaughtering a succession of hapless opponents, clinched quite possibly the most comprehensive minor-premiership in NSL history

But it all came unstuck on grand final day in front of 40,000-plus rabid Queenslanders; United slumping 2-0 in the one game that counted most.

He'll argue feverishly that winning the league so emphatically was the "real satisfaction" of that season, yet the self-confessed soccer video addict gives it away by conceding that he is still to watch a replay of that legendary showdown at Suncorp Stadium

"I was so disappointed," he recalled

"The day was a blur and all I can remember at the end was feeling totally drained and just relieved it was all over.

"I was mostly disappointed for the players because they missed out on it.

"I certainly have no doubt that the greatest team I've ever coached was that Sydney United side.

"That was a special time for me and I don't think I'll ever achieve something like that again.

"Some great players and coaches might only get that single opportunity to win a grand final and we missed an opportunity that day."

So, can Culina achieve personal grand final redemption with Olympic in possibly his last season as an NSL coach?

Culina is guarded.

"Let's just say that this team is balanced enough to be quiet achievers," he says.

"I really believe in the players and without the hype I think we can go places."

MICHAEL CURCIJA IN PROFILE

Each week Soccer Australia sends out an 'O-File', a weekly interview with an Olyroo. This week it's South Melbourne's Michael Curcija

Q:How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life?

A: I don't think it will change my life drastically. Don't get me wrong, it will be an unbelievable experience, but at the same time, it will just be a part of my life. In the end, while it's one of the biggest tournaments, life goes on as normal after it, and that's how I'm looking at it. It won't be the be all and end all of my soccer career, but it will certainly be a big stepping stone.

Q: Why will the Olyroos perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: Because we will have had a good, long preparation. Most of this squad has been together for around 3 years in the lead-up, a lot of players have international and overseas experience and that helps.

Q: What motivates you?

A: Fear of losing.

Q: What inspires you?

A: Scoring goals - it's a loop effect, the more I score, the more I'm inspired, then the more I score etc.

Q: Con Blatsis is both a South Melbourne team-mate and an Olyroo team-mate - does it help, particularly mentally, having him around?

A: For sure. Con and I have known each other since we were 14 and we're close off the park as well as on it.

It's good to be able to talk to him about things you can't talk to too many other people about, and we spend quite a bit of time talking Olyroos and Olympics - everything from tours coming up, to players who we think are playing well, to preparations - everything you can think of, we talk about it.

Q: You are in top goal scoring form for South Melbourne at the moment - is your position in the Olyroo squad something that's always on your mind, or does it just have its place in the scheme of things, and is not something you're particularly conscious of when your on the field and scoring for your Club?

A: I think when I'm actually out there playing, it's nothing more than wanting to do well for my team mates and my club, but during the week, at training and preparation, it is on my mind that having a good season is important for me.

It's not really a burden, because you have to face these pressures, and it's one of the things I have to deal with - it's just how you deal with it. I suppose I just take it in my stride, but I also deal with it by not thinking about it on match day

About the only person I speak to about it though is my girlfriend, who really

knows what's going on in my head

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the Olyroo Squad?

A: I'm a good goalscorer, who manages to position myself in the box and get into good striking positions. I'd be one of the better finishers going around in terms of Olyroo strikers, and in terms of goalscoring, not too many would have a better record than I do.

Q: You've played a number of games with the Olyroos now over a couple of years - how and why is the team improving?

A: I think that there's still a lot more improvement to come in the next six-months as the European players are coming back into the squad to give it a little more shape. The last couple of tours have seen everyone play as one, everyone knows the system and everyone is sticking to it, which helps the team as a whole.

Q: What are you hoping to achieve personally over the next 12 months?

A: I want to be the League's top scorer this year, and I've got off to a good start ... obviously make the Olympic squad, and for the 12 months, that's about



it - I can't really achieve much more in 12 months.

Q: Is there any one particular member of this current squad who you feel stands out?

A: Two actually, Harry Kewell obviously, and Hayden Foxe. I've known Hayden from the AIS days when he was always a great player and still is - Harry has achieved so much in the last couple of years, you have to admire that.

Q: And your final words for the Australian public?

A: Get behind not only the soccer team but all Australian Olympians in Sydney, because we really need the support to achieve what we want to achieve, against the best athletes in the world

VIDUKA SCORES A QUICK FIRE HAT-TRICK



In the midweek European games a number of Aussies were included in their teams as they strived for Cup glory. Harry Kewell was again the featured star scoring a goal in the 83rd minute as Leeds had a convincing 4-1 home win over Moscow's Lokomotiv in the UEFA Cup first round.

In the other game featuring an Aussie, Celtic, with Mark Viduka on board, wasn't so fortunate as it went down 1-0 away to Lyon.

In the Champions Cup, Mark Bosnich continued as first choice for Manchester United in a 2-1 away victory over Croatia Zagreb.

In the Arsenal - Fiorentina game, won 1-0 by Fiorentina in London, Paul Okon stayed on the bench for the duration of the game after playing a full game in the previous weekend's Serie A game.

Rangers suffered a similarly bad defeat at home when beaten 2-1 by Spanish club Valencia. Craig Moore played the full game and scored in the 80th minute while Tony Vidmar started the game but was replaced in the 61st minute.

The English Premier League continued on the weekend with leaders Leeds United maintaining its great run with a 1-0 home victory over West Ham. Kewell, although not as dominant as he has been in some recent games, he did at times torment the West Ham defence as he tried to prise open the solid defensive line led by Rio Ferdinand.

Kewell had a couple of opportunities in the first half but a free header went wide while a rasping long range shot was saved by the visitor's keeper, Shaka Hislop. A first time swerving, dipping chip from just outside the penalty box a few minutes before the half time whistle seemed headed for a superb goal before a brilliant intervention by Hislop prevented Kewell from adding to his season tally.

Both of the Aussie Premier League 'keepers, Mark Bosnich and Mark Schwarzer, were between the goalposts for the full game as their teams recorded victories over Aston Villa to the tune of 3-0 and Everton by 2-1 respectively.

Richard Johnson was busy in Watford's midfield as it encountered John Aloisi's Coventry City. Aloisi has commenced training after his injury but was not part of the first team squad as Coventry thrashed Watford 4-0.

In the Nationwide First Division, a midweek game between leaders Manchester City and fellow promotion candidate Ipswich saw City beat the visitors to the tune of one goal to nil, with Aussie Danny Tiatto seeing action from the 80th minute as a replacement. City continued on its winning way on the weekend with a 2-1 away win over Port Vale with Tiatto remaining on the bench. Danny Allsop was not part of the first team squad for either game.

In the Blackburn against QPR game, John Filan was again in goal for the home team which

went down 0-2 to the visitors. George Kuisca, on the way to recovery from his meningitis scare, has not yet won back a place amongst the first team squad.

Andy Petterson is an ever present in the Portsmouth goal while compatriot Mike Panapoulos came on in the 79th minute as the home team beat the visitors, Crystal Palace, by three goals to one. Neither Craig Foster nor Nick Rizzo are yet in the first team plans after their injuries.

Shaun Murphy was the pillar of the Sheffield United defence but he couldn't prevent his team from going down 0-1 at home to Huddersfield.

Like Petterson, Jason Kearton is a perennial starter in goals for Crewe Alexander but he wasn't able to stop the goals as Tranmere beat his team 2-0.

In the Sunday 1-1 drawn game between West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers three of the four Aussies got some action in the game. Kevin Muscat and Andrew McDermott both played full games with McDermott scoring in the 13th minute. Of the other two Australians, Steve Corica came on at the start of the second half for Wolves while Jason Van Blerk remained on the bench for West Brom.

In the first round of the FA Cup Andrew Bernal got himself onto the scoresheet in the 31st minute as Reading had a handsome 4-1 win over Yeovil.

In another FA Cup first round game Millwall was beaten 1-0 by Hartlepool United with both of the Aussies, Lucas Neill and, newly selected Olyroo, Tim Cahill playing full games for Millwall. In Scotland Mark Viduka is racing away with the goal scoring prizes as he went on a rampage against Kilmarnock by knocking in three in the space of four minutes in a 5-1 Celtic home win.

Both Craig Moore (see story right) and Tony Vidmar started the game against Aberdeen as the 'Gers went on to record a 1-5 away victory. Moore played the full game while Vidmar was sacrificed for an extra forward in the 56th minute as the away team went in search of victory after the scores were locked 1-1 up to then.

In Germany potential Australian captain Ned Zelic was replaced in the 79th minute as 1860 Munchen maintained their respectable start to the season with a 1-1 away draw against Bayer Leverkusen. Interestingly Ulf Kirsten a player rumoured to be on his way to Australia next year to play with Perth Glory scored the goal for Leverkusen.

David Zdrilic played in an unaccustomed midfield role as his team Ulm had a good away draw to Duisburg.

None of Frank Juric, Josip Simunic or Paul Agostino saw any action this weekend.

In Italy, Paul Okon was again on the bench for the whole game for his team Fiorentina in their Serie A home draw with Torino.

The other Aussie in Serie A, Ante Senc came on in the 67th minute of Verona's 0-0 home draw with AC Milan.

In Serie B Marco Bresciano came on in the 83rd minute as his team Empoli drew 0-0 away to Casenza.

In Croatia Josip Skoko was one of the better players as he played a full game in Hajduk's 2-0 home win against Varteks. Fellow Aussie Tony Grdic came on in the 82nd minute.

Ante Milicic is yet to make his appearance as a starter for Rijeka but he did come on in the 52nd minute of his team's 3-2 away loss to Osijek.

CRAIG MOORE - FROM ZERO TO HERO

Australian central defender Craig Moore has had a tumultuous few months at Scottish club Rangers. He has scaled the heights and sunk to the bottom as he strived to make himself an integral part of the Rangers team.

The Daily Record reports that perhaps the most startling development during Rangers' roller-coaster Champions' League campaign has been the transformation of Moore from fall guy to hero among the club's support.

The Australian was a target for the fans' ire during Walter Smith's final, trophyless season and few tears were shed when he was sold by Dick Advocaat to Crystal Palace last year for 800,000 pounds.

If his sale didn't raise any eyebrows, however, the re-signing of the 23-year-old by the Dutchman certainly did.

They could hardly see how a brief, unhappy spell - just 24 appearances in six months - with the troubled London First Division club could have improved him sufficiently to justify a rare second chance at Ibrox. To state that he had his doubters would be like saying that Andrei Kanchelskis could contribute more to the team.

Now, though, Moore is no longer the ugly duckling. Instead, he swans around Ibrox with the air of a man who realises he has become indispensable.

Indeed, it's fair to say that he has always known his own worth: it's just taken the rest of us a while to share his assessment.

Certainly, the man who took him under his wing was never in any doubt about the potential shown by the raw youngster who had travelled 3000 miles from his home in Australia to make his name with Rangers.

Richard Gough, the most successful captain in Rangers' history, always expected Moore's ability to take him to the top ... but he expected the player would become a star in the Premiership.

However, the veteran defender, currently helping Everton to their best start to a season since the days when Stock, Arken and Waterman ruled the charts, is delighted Moore has claimed his rightful place at Ibrox.

The 37-year-old said: "When Craig first came to the club he was just 17 or 18 but he was the best central defender I've ever seen at that age."

"Unfortunately for him, due to the circumstances at the time - we were well off in that position - when Craig got into the side he was forced to play at right-back or in midfield."

"I had to do the same thing when I started out as a young man with Dundee United. It's part of the game."

Gough has kept in constant touch with Moore since leaving Rangers for the first time in 1997 and he regularly gives him the benefit of his experience.

He said: "I remember when the chance arose for him to go to Palace, Craig wasn't sure whether or not he should take it. However, he wasn't getting a game with Rangers at the time and I was sure once he'd moved down there one of the big Premiership clubs would come in for him."

"I don't think Dick Advocaat particularly wanted to sell Craig at the time but he decided to go anyway and maybe that was a good thing."

"Sometimes you need to leave Ibrox to realise just how big a club Rangers is."

"There are really only three big clubs in Britain: Rangers, Celtic and Manchester United. In terms of the stadium, facilities and support no one else comes close."

"I'm glad, though, that he was able to rejoin Rangers and that things have worked out so well for him."

"Having let him go, Rangers were fortunate that Palace were in desperate need of money when they decided they wanted him back."

"It was the ideal move for Craig, too, because the situation at Selhurst Park wasn't good."

"I watch Rangers' matches whenever I can and I was at Ibrox for the PSV match last week and from what I can gather Craig has been the most consistent player at the club. That's what every defender strives for, of course, but it's not easy. "He called me at the start of the season after he'd made a few mistakes and I told him not to worry." Sometimes with Rangers you're only as good as your last pass, never mind your last game. At you can do is be positive and make sure your next pass is a good one."

"The coach obviously has faith in him if he's playing him ahead of Colin Hendry and that will boost his confidence. Craig has a lot of time for Advocaat and he tells me he's helped him to develop."

Gough played alongside the Aussie on numerous occasions as he struggled to adapt to the various demands being made on him. But he realises he didn't see the best of Moore as a team-mate.

He said "Craig is now 23, coming up on 24, and playing in his proper position."

"I was the same age when I was finally given the opportunity to do that at Tottenham. Central defence is an awkward position for a youngster because one error can really drain your confidence."

"Craig can handle all that stuff now. He has a good temperament and that will be vital against Bayern Munich this week."

"Rangers will need players who can stand up and be strong and Craig definitely fits that bill. "I wish he was playing alongside me now at Everton. In fact, I wish I could have played with him when I was in my prime because we would have made some partnership."



Ange IS right - South Melbourne IS great



By Kevin Christopher

On the surface, South Melbourne have never been happier. As a result of their achievements in Fiji they will be Oceania's first representative at a fully-fledged World Club Championship, and in the process will rake in just under \$4million, which should cement the club's place in the top echelon of the NSL for many years to come.

But while the club's accountants are grinning, coach Ange Postecoglou is not so impressed. After the 2-0 home win over Northern Spirit earlier this season he launched an attack on the present media over the lack of kudos for his team. Ange, along with club president George Vasilopoulos, was preparing to get on a

plane to Brazil for the World Club Championship draw yet all he had read in the papers during the week was news of Carlton's beer garden at Olympic Park.

Well, yes. Carlton, with a little help from their fans, had dreamed up an innovative tactic in an effort to draw some punters to the game.

The media thought it was a novel idea, and ran the story. If South Melbourne's marketing department came up with a novel idea it is quite possible the Melbourne media would promote that as well.

The metropolitan dailies were the main target of Ange's verbal barbs, and while Carlton have enjoyed a honeymoon (of sorts) with the Melbourne media, that is more a result of the Blues' PR machine working overtime on them.

Conversely, South have tended to be a little more introspective about their own achievements.

The ante has been raised further this season with cross-town rivals Carlton introducing a policy of taking accredited media on away trips with the team.

Yes, an Australian soccer team has a policy of taking journos on the team bus! It hardly seems likely in Australian club sport let alone Australian club soccer, but Carlton must be congratulated on their initiative.

Unfortunately their motives have

been questioned by some, but one wonders whether South Melbourne may have been better off considering similar action, particularly when it comes to their recent trip to Fiji.

The reason South's Pacific achievements got such little coverage is brutally simple. There were no recognised Australian soccer journalists there.

With the tournament taking place in the week leading up to the AFL and NRL grand finals, there was always going to be limited space available in the papers, and the likelihood of any sports editors sending their soccer reporters to Fiji for a week was zero.

The solution? Add between 2-4% to your budget and take a recognised journalist with you, instructing him to watch and interview all day and type and fax all night.

And if he has a digital camera and e-mail facilities (yes, the Fiji FA has an e-mail address) then you are suddenly putting your name in front of the noses of every sports editor in Australia, if not the world.

Unfortunately it must have been dropped in the too hard basket. The end result was media releases which bordered on the farcical.

And this followed pre-event media releases which were littered with erroneous and misleading information about the tournament and its participants.

Such a pity the club were operating without a marketing manager at the precise time they needed one most.

Like every other club in the National Soccer League South Melbourne is looking to capture the imagination of the (non-

soccer) sports media and, by extension, the public.

And as many clubs before them have discovered, winning is not enough. It certainly helps, but if any NSL club is looking to expand their support base beyond the committed soccerphiles in the community then a winning team simply isn't going to attract the casual observer.

The public have shown they are unwilling to pay money to get body-searched, stand on concrete terraces exposed to the elements and pay over-inflated prices for snack foods.

Despite the fantastic achievements of back-to-back national championships and an Oceania club title, what South Melbourne are effectively offering the Melbourne public in 1999/2000 is 'more of the same'.

To their credit, that is exactly what they have delivered so far. A couple of highly professional home victories by two or three goal margins, leaving a clear indication that South Melbourne will be competing in the finals next May.

Sadly, that hasn't been enough to attract full houses to Bob Jane over the past couple of seasons, and even with the added attention their Brazilian exploits will generate, it is going to take an enormous effort from the club to reach that point.

Offering the Melbourne public - and the media - something they haven't experienced yet would be an excellent place to start.

Kevin Christopher appears courtesy of Studs Up fanzine.

South fans launch media petition

By Kevin Christopher

After years of watching the Australian commercial television networks ignoring the achievements of their side, the South Melbourne Supporters Group have finally had enough.

A petition has been organised with the aim of collecting sufficient signatures to provoke a change in attitude toward soccer from the networks.

SMSG spokesman Peter Kartsidimas said "We are looking

at getting soccer fans all over Australia and New Zealand to sign the petition, including everyone who attends the South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights match at Bob Jane Stadium on November 7.

"It is time for Souths fans and all soccer fans to tell the networks exactly how we feel."

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the petition can get in contact with Peter on 0412 602 932 or write to the SMSG at P O Box 2055, Lygon

Street North, 3057.

Inside Soccer fully supports any initiative that helps the game receive the media support it deserves.



next week in Inside Soccer.

Carlton's star keeper DEAN ANASTASIADIS with Daniela Raco



AUSTRALIA'S WORLD CLASS SOCCER VIDEO MAKER: ROD HAY



Paco Varela, the last survivor of the first World Cup in 1930, still shoots for goal in his beloved Boca strip, aged 88.

By Aidan Ormond

It's an indictment on the game, and the media in this country that a world class football filmmaker has to, like many of our soccer players, go overseas to 'make it'.

Rod Hay is the producer/writer/director of the critically acclaimed 'Champions of the World' video, a project that won the premier award at Sportel, a gold medal at the New TV and Broadcasting Festival and the best sports journalist award in Spain.

Hay has lived in Australia 30 years and comes from a rich soccer background. He was an apprentice at West Ham before playing in South Africa. He holds the South African goalscoring record of 11 goals in one game - a feat that still stands today.

His film credits include 'Sleeping Giants' in 1993; another award-winning program based on African football. He has produced individually over twenty shows on football.

His next project is a program on the

four big Latin derbies. And it is this Latin fever and passion for the game that has him entranced.

But before we broached that topic, we discussed Australia.

"I am still a bit ambivalent about Australian Soccer because of the people who run the game and that sort of mentality that has us as a sort of 'fourth cab off the rank' and the rather short-sighted attitude of the commercial stations, SBS notwithstanding," lamented Hay.

"There has been so much of that 'two steps forward four steps sideways' attitude. It's refreshing to see the emergence of Spirit and Power but I am still somewhat cynical as to its (the game's) progress."

His perspective as a filmmaker is to seek out the life and colour of any project, and to get behind what the football may represent.

"As a filmmaker I am always looking for the colour and mysticism and uniqueness that prevails out of Latin America and Africa - so it is no disrespect to Australia, after all that sort of passion largely doesn't exist in most of Europe."

"So it was a natural thing to do something on the roots and passion of the Latin game, particularly as this is where the 'jorgo bonito' (the beautiful game) has its spiritual home."

"I'm always looking for the drama," said Hay with enthusiasm. "The levels of conflict and passion that occur when these clubs clash in big derbies is very special."

The social context of these football films is also explored.

"I looked at poverty in Latin America and how that serves and instills a sense of motivation. A gifted child is perhaps a reflection of glory the parents may share in."

"When I was in Colombia I noticed the influence of drug cartels right across all clubs. I even went to jail with the Rodriguez brothers who run the cartels over there, to see their perspective on it."

"You could say I picked up on that old saying of Bill Shankly that football is more important than life or death - over there in Latin America, everyone has an opinion on football, from the President down."

"In a Latin sense, Mexico is an enigma because they have a passion but the clubs are relatively wealthy, and well-run. It's a very nice lifestyle. Contrast this with Australia, and we suffer the same malady of having relatively well-off clubs but lacking passion spurred by economic hardship, like they endure in Brazil."

Hay is however critical of Australia's commercial media failing to understand the global importance of the Global Game.

"We still are not seen as a main football nation here in Australia. I am always the eternal optimist, but it has to be media driven. It can't be seen as just an ethnic sport."

"I am at the moment trying to give Channel 7 the Brazilian episode of 'COTW', which would be a terrific lead-in program for the upcoming Ronaldo and Brazil tour. Unfortunately we just don't have people with the foresight or commitment to realize that this is the biggest sport in the world."

"I mean this pissy World Cup of Rugby with 16 teams, with five main teams only ... it's all marketing driven. They don't even have an anthem. No respecting Soccer World Cup would be without an anthem."

"The sports industry is so huge but controlled by such a small number of people," he added.

"My programs are more appealing to a worldwide audience (2000 videos sold in the last few months). Trying to get air-



play on radio/TV is hard.

"It makes me cynical given the level of passion I've seen all round the world, and particularly in Latin America."

I wondered what his 'highlight' was in the making of the Champions of the World video?

"My highlight was the Tahuichi academy, a word for big bird. Bolivia is one of the most impoverished nations, so, in order to immune themselves from such



poverty kids take up drugs from the cocoa leaf.

"It's kind of a vicious circle. They can't get out of the poverty so they take up this drug because it's an institution. What the Tahuichi academy said was we are tired of Bolivian football being on the last rung of the ladder."

"Through the help of some exiled politicians (Aguilera in particular) the academy, started 21 years ago, proved to be a shrine and a motivation to the children. In the last 10 to 15 years some tremendous players have come out of this academy. In a territory so poor, the academy taught them to have self-worthiness."

"They all had one ambition, to improve Bolivian football. This is the social context of football."

"Maradona is a good example of this, a kid from a poor background who was able to take on the world, sadly his humble background may have been part of his downfall."

So what advice does Hay have for other people in Australia who would like to do what he does?

"For budding young film makers of football in Australia there are few outlets, but perhaps it's the old story that you may have to go overseas to be successful. There is the government with their assistance and certain tax incentive.... generally it's not an easy thing. You need more strings to your bow than just football."

The video is available at all major stores and at video stores. A perfect Christmas present or gift at any time. See ad on page seven.

EPISODE BREAKDOWN SYNOPSIS OF THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD VIDEO

EPISODE ONE: THE ROOTS. A general insight into the history, culture and achievement of football throughout Latin America. From the leaders to the lesser lights, who have all played their part in the development and stature of arguably the most exciting and beautiful football in the world.

EPISODE TWO: URUGUAY. The first World Champions in 1930 and again in 1950, they are still held in high regard. No longer the force they were, but they remain a formidable competitor despite their relatively small population. Despite facing a mounting economic crisis amongst its local clubs, winning the 1995 Copa America trophy at the expense of Brazil, demon-

strated they can never be underestimated.

EPISODE THREE: ARGENTINA. Twice World Champions, their traditional rivalry with Uruguay and Brazil is as intense as it is colourful. Acknowledged as the European capital of South America, the portenos of Buenos Aires are still coming to terms with their mixed heritage, be it Spanish, Italian or Argentinian. This has cost them dearly in the past through the exodus of players to Europe.

EPISODE FOUR: COLOMBIA. The home of the fabled El Dorado where its football has often been referred to in the same glowing but frustrating terms. Despite its exciting, free flowing individual style, its full potential has remained equally elusive, although there has been significant development over the past decade. Off field conflict and the influence and involvement of the drug barons has been held largely responsible for both their

rise and lack of success.

EPISODE FIVE: BRAZIL. Reigning World Champions and acknowledged masters of the beautiful game. A world of multiculturalism within one nation, where the rhythms of the samba and capoeira combine with the passion of 150 million people whose main pursuits in life are football first and foremost, with everything else a distant second.

EPISODE SIX: MEXICO. A nation of great promise who have hosted the World Cup twice and have a cultural history that goes back four thousand years. They have often lived in the football shadows of their more illustrious southern neighbours, but the passion and belief in wanting to be number one has made them a much stronger force in recent years.



ANISSA TANN-DARBY'S CHINA REPORT MATILDAS BATTLE CLASSY CHINA

The Matildas lost 3-1 to China in Zhuhai last Thursday in front of 15,000 noisy, horn blowing supporters. Unfortunately, Australia had a very tentative start and was unable to maintain possession of the ball for long periods.

The first 30 minutes of the game became a defensive exercise, which was made all the more difficult with the loss of our left-sided defender Bridgette Starr.

Starr had an unfortunate clash with Liu Ying in the 22nd minute, sustaining a facial injury, and was unable to continue. Sixteen year old Heather Garriock was brought in and proved to be an outstanding replacement even though it was her debut.

In the first half the Chinese team had wave after wave of attacks and placed a great deal of pressure on our defence.

In the 35th minute Wang Li Ping scored the first Chinese goal. A header behind our defence went to a Chinese attacker, clearly in an offside position. However, there was no call and she was

able to draw Tracy Wheeler out of goal and slot the ball to Wang who placed the ball easily into the net despite the desperate lunge from the Australian defence.

China's second goal came only two minutes later with Xie Hui Lin penetrating through the centre of defence after a break on the right hand side.

The second half proved to be an entirely different scenario with the Chinese unable to dominate like they had in the first half. Australia was able to maintain possession for long periods of time and our pressure and hard work paid off in the 61st minute with a great goal from Sunni Hughes. US based midfielder Danielle Small intercepted a Chinese pass and eventually the ball was laid off to Sunni on the left, who expertly chipped the advancing keeper.

Throughout this period of the game Australia was dominating the Chinese and another goal looked imminent. However, against the run of play a lapse in defence allowed another Chinese goal from Zhao Li Hong in the 77th minute. Australia continued to attack during the final phase but was unable to reduce the deficit.

Although disappointed with the result, all the players are looking forward to the next game in Xiamen, where we



Chinese players in a relaxed mood

think we can improve once again and come away with a better result.

The two debutants, Small and Garriock, along with defender Traci Bartlett were Australia's best performers.

"Apart from the one defensive lapse which allowed China to score the third goal, I am very happy with the performance of the team in the second half," said new National coach, Chris Tanzey.

"It shows the players are adapting to the new style of play and we look forward to greater improvements," he added.

China: Wang Li Ping 35, Xie Hui Lin 37, Zhao Li Hong 77

Australia: 1 (Sunni Hughes 61)

AUSTRALIA: WHEELER, STARR (GARRIOCK 22), SALISBURY, TANN-DARBY, BARTLETT, FORMAN, BLACK, (WAINWRIGHT 85), SMALL, WILSON,

BOYD (FERGUSON 78), HUGHES (GOLEBIOWSKI 68).

In the second game of the tour the Matildas lost 4-2, scorers were Hughes and Salisbury.

On the domestic front and there was a big upset result with the NSW Sapphires losing 3-1 to QAS Sting.

In other results, ACTAS Canberra Eclipse also won 3-1, this time against NNSW Pride and the SASI Pirates beat Vic Vision 1-0 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The points ladder is:

NSW Sapphires 16pts, SASI Pirates 15, QAS Sting 11, NNSW Pride 8, ACTAS 6, Vic Vision 2.

In the contest between QAS Sting and NSW Sapphires goals were scored by Jamara Maza (7), Olivia Hohnke (73) and Lisa Dunne (90) while for NSW Joanne Burgess scored just before half-time.

In goal for the Queenslanders keeper Claire Nichols had a blinder, denying the opposition on three separate occasions. In the ACTAS v NNSW game the Canberrans won thanks to goals by Foxhil, Doyle and Channing, with NNSW's goal coming from Baker after 50 mins.

Matilda Natalie Thomas scored the only goal for SASI to beat Vic Vision 1-0. By all accounts it was an absolute beauty by the talented star.

DALAI LAMA'S MONKS HELP GIPPSLAND WIN FIRST GAME!



Falcons' Mehmed Durakovic with the monks.

By Aidan Ormond

We've heard of Witch Doctors in Africa soccer and Eileen Drewery's faithhealing for Glenn Hoddle's England is legendary. Now Australian clubs are getting in on the act.

Prior to their weekend game against Newcastle, Gippsland Falcons invited a group of six Tibetan monks to have an impromptu training session at Mobil Park.

The monks - from Dalai Lama's Gyuto Monastery in Tibet - were on a tour of Gippsland and expressed an interest in seeing Soccer when they learned that

Falcons had a team in the national league.

The monks joined in the training session in full habit and, apparently, moved the ball around quite well as they mingled with the senior side. Their skills on the ball were quite good as they kicked and headed the ball with ease (the monks that is.)

Also on the agenda was a blessing of the side.

The monks were special guests at the ground last Saturday for the club's vital NSL clash with the high-flying and unbeaten Newcastle Breakers. They made an unusual sight sitting in the members' area.

Coach Jeff Hopkins welcomed the monks and invited them to join in the training session that had started as the team practiced passing and heading drills.

"They were great guys and it was a lot of fun. The players enjoyed every minute and the monks seemed very much at ease," commented Hopkins.

"They are obviously soccer fanatics."

Players Mehmed Durakovic and Sandy Robertson had a special session with the senior monk in an effort to speed up nagging injuries and both were expecting to move more freely after the session.

"I've seen a lot of things in my soccer career but this was very special," added



Dalai Lama's monks who visited Gippsland Falcons before their game against Newcastle. Needless to say Falcons won.

Hopkins.

"After the session we all got together and the monks blessed the team and the pitch and assured us through an interpreter that we would win on Saturday night against Newcastle Breakers."

Hopkins joked after the victory over Breakers that he wanted to call the Dalai Lama to thank him "but I don't have his mobile number!"

The monks are no strangers to football. The last time the monks had visited a

football side - an Aussie Rules side in Adelaide two years ago - the team came out and won by ten goals.

There is no truth in the rumour that the monks are coming to visit Soccer Australia, although that wouldn't be such a bad idea.

And after the Falcons' win expect the phone at the Gyuto Monastery to ring hot with NSL clubs wanting some of their own divine intervention, especially as the monks are currently travelling around

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND SIX

CARLTON v CANBERRA COSMOS

1 Dean Anastasiadis	1	Toplica Popovich
2 Dave McPherson	2	Danny Burt
3 Craig Deans	3	Nicholas Purdue
4 Simon Colosimo	4	Jason Polak
5 Sean Douglas	5	David Winnie
6 Andrew Marth	6	Daniel Watkins
7 Stuart Slater	7	Alex Castro
8 Mark Atkinson	8	Michael Musitano
9 Alex Moriera	9	David Arranz
10 Lubo Lapsansky	10	Brian Hamilton
11 Archie Thompson	11	
12 Mike Conroy	12	
13 Steve Martin	13	
14 John Markovski	14	Harry James
15 Con Anthopoulos	15	Glen Kolpak
16 David Terminello	16	Ilija Prenzovski
17 Joe Tricarico	17	
18 David Della Rocca	18	Nikola Mrdja
19 Serdar Pir	19	Geoff Howarth
20 Adrian Cagalj	20	Grant Barlow
21 Andrew Packer	21	Scott Conlon
22 Angelo Molsiopoulos	22	Elliot Zwagobani
23 Colin Azzopardi	25	Ivo De Jesus
24 Joshua Kennedy	26	Gabriel Gonzalez
	30	Angelo Konstantinou

Venue: Olympic Park - Friday 5 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 4 Carlton wins: 3 Canberra wins: 1 Draws 0
 Last Week: Carlton 0-0 away draw with Force
 Cosmos 1-1 home draw with Glory

REPLAYED ON OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 12 10.30 PM FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1999

PARRAMATTA POWER v GIPPSLAND FALCONS

1 Andrew Crews	1	Bojo Jevjedjevic
2 David Barrett	2	Dean Fak
3 Michael Santalab	3	Manny Gotis
4 Steve Eagleton	4	Mehmed Durakovic
5 Richard Plesa	5	Jeff Hopkins
6 Joe Vrkic	6	Brian MacNichol
7 Jacob Burns	7	Andy Vargas
8 Walter Ardone	8	Clayton Bell
9 Mile Sterjovski	9	Robbie Puca
10 Joel Griffiths	10	Sandy Robertson
11 Steve Berry	11	John Hutchinson
12 Stephen Laybutt	12	Peter Kakos
13 Milan Blagojevic	13	Adrian Savage
14 John Angelucci	14	Doug Marcina
15 Danny Townsend	15	Jonathon Buhugiar
16	16	Juan Nilo
17 Danny Kukucka	17	Will Hastie
18 Lachlan Campbell	18	Michael Katz
19 Matt Thompson		
20 Barney Smith		
21 Ahmid Elrich		
22 John Gibson		
28 Peter Bennett		
29		
30 Mike Gibson		

Venue: Parramatta Stadium - Friday 5 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: N/A
 Last Week: Power 3-1 away loss to Brisbane
 Falcons 1-0 home win over Breakers

WOLLONGONG WOLVES v NORTHERN SPIRIT

1 Leslie Pogliacomi	1	John Perosh
2 George Souris	2	Robert Enes
3 Alvin Ceccoli	3	Matthew Langdon
4 Robert Stanton	4	Matthew Bingley
5 David Cervinski	5	Mark Rudan
6 Matthew Horsley	6	Luke Casserley
7 Paul Reid	7	Robbie Slater
8 Anthony Surjan	8	Tony Perinich
9 Sasho Dimoski	9	David Seal
10 Stuart Young	10	Clayton Zane
11 Scott Chipperfield	11	Troy Cranney
12 Neil Harlock	12	Simon Catanzaro
13 Noel Spencer	13	Philip Moss
14 Saso Petrovski	14	Shane Lyons
15 David Huxley	15	Anthony Faria
16 Peter Lahamas	17	Paul Bilokapic
17 Esala Masi	18	Paul Wearne
18 Chad Bishop	19	Graham Arnold
19 Paul Dimech	20	Jess Van Stratten
20 Daniel Bertrame	21	Michael Cunico
21 Christian Zelvis	22	Paul Henderson
	23	Adam Snyder
	24	Elvis Olic
	25	Ryan Griffiths
	26	Jack Sobczyk
	27	Adam Griffiths
	28	Abbas Saad
	30	Sean Cranney

Venue: Brandon Park - Sunday 7 November 1999 6.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 2 Wolves 1 Spirit wins: 1 Draws 0
 Last Week: Wolves 3-3 away draw with Kingz
 Spirit 0-1 home loss to Olympic

PERTH GLORY v BRISBANE STRIKERS

1 Danny Milosevic	1	Clint Bolton
2 Robert Trajkovski	2	Glenn Gwynne
3 Jamie Harnwell	3	Shane Stefanutto
4	4	Andrew Davidson
5 Vinko Buljbasic	5	Matthew Bell
6 Gareth Naven	6	Brad Ditton
7 Scott Miller	7	Shane Smeltz
8 Troy Halpin	8	David Pilic
9 Alistair Edwards	9	Paul Foster
10 Bobby Despotoski	10	Wayne Srhoj
11 Kasey Wehrman	11	Greg Di Losa
12 Peter Buljan	12	Pete Dwyer
13 James Afkos	13	Stuart McClaren
14 Dion Valle	14	Jade North
15 Edgar Junior	15	Leo Langone
16 Con Boutsianis	16	Peter Grierson
17 Vas Kalogeracos	17	Jerome Harris
18 Hamilton Thorp	18	Nick Meredith
19 John Carbone	19	Wade Baldwin
20 Tony Franken	20	Daniel Duke
21 Ivan Ergic		

Venue: Perth Oval - Sunday 7 November 1999 4.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 6 Glory wins: 3 Strikers 2 wins: 2 Draws 1
 Last Week: Glory 1-1 away draw with Cosmos
 Strikers 3-1 home win over Power

SYDNEY UNITED v ADELAIDE FORCE

1 John Crawley	1	Ivan Zelic
2 Ray Younis	2	Milan Ivanovic
3 Mark Racker	3	Alex Tobin
4 Velimir Kupresak	4	Carlo Talladira
5 Eddie Bosnar	5	Damian Mori
6 Vince Savocca	6	Carl Veart
7 Mirko Jurilj	7	Nick Sabljak
8 Nahuel Arrarte	8	Aurelio Vidmar
9 Mario Jermen	9	
10 Ante Moric	10	
11 Tom Pondeljak	11	
12 Tom Maric	12	Nathan Day
13 Matthew Zec	13	John Fusco
14 Kain Rastall	14	Michael Cartwright
15 Aytec Genc	15	Louis Brain
16 Joe Moric	16	Bradley Hassell
17 Nick Bosevski	17	Angelo Costanzo
18 Steve Bozinovski	18	Matthew Kemp
19 Greg Saric	19	
20 Steve Tolios	20	Vilson Knezevic
21 Brett Hughes	21	Dong Ki Kim
25 Ante Deak		

Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre - Sunday 7 November 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 31 United wins: 9 Force wins: 10 Draws 12
 Last Week: United 1-0 away loss to Knights
 Force 0-0 home draw with Carlton

SOUTH MELBOURNE v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1 Milan Udvaracz	1	Joey Rayher
2 Steve Iosifidis	2	Ivan Jolic
3 Fausto de Amicis	3	Ante Kovacevic
4 Nick Orlie	4	Jason Vukadin
5 Con Blatsis	5	John Didulica
6 David Clarkson	6	Mark Silic
7 Steve Panopoulos	7	Dragi Nastevski
8 Vaughan Coveny	8	Ivan Kalic
9 Paul Trimboli	9	Paul Urlovic
10 Michael Curcija	10	Mijo Trupkovic
11 John Anastasiadis	11	Murtala Toyin Abbas
12 Richie Alagich	12	Lance Plunkett
13 Adrian Cuzzupe	13	Paul Magdic
14 Anthony Magnacca	14	Ransford Banini
15 Goran Lozanovski	15	Alex Kriatzoglou
16 George Goutzoulis	16	Brandon Vassalo
17 Jim Tsekinis	17	Roddy Vargas
18 Robert Liparoti	18	Adrian Cervinski
19 Tasos Psonis	19	Martin John
20 Chris Jones	20	Zeljko Susa
21	21	Steven Tillingier
22 Mustafa Mustafa	22	Michael Reda
	23	

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium - Sunday 7 November 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 44 South Melbourne wins: 18 Knights wins: 10 Draws 16
 Last Week: South Melbourne 2-0 away loss to Marconi
 Knights 1-0 home win over Sydney United

LIVE TELECAST FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM

OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 13

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v MARCONI



- 1 Chad Gibson
- 2 Mark Babic
- 3
- 4
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Pan-Kenn Kim
- 7 Christian Caro
- 8 Darren McDonald
- 9 Zeljko Babic
- 10 Brad Maloney
- 11 Mike Smith
- 12
- 13 Danny Inveric
- 14 Buddy Farah
- 15 Pierluigi di Gi
- 16
- 17 Francis Awaritefe
- 18 Harry Karl
- 19 Brendan Ranaud
- 20 David Aceski
- 21 Paolo Marchesini
- 22 Kris Trajanovski
- 23 Vlado Zoric



- 1 Bob Catlin
- 2 Shane Pryce
- 3 Andrew Roberts (above)
- 4 Adam Sanderson
- 5 Todd McManus
- 6 Glenn Sprod
- 7 Travis Dodd
- 8 Mark Wilson
- 9 Chris Tancheski
- 10 John Buonavoglia
- 11 Luke Tonich
- 12 Robert Anglovski
- 13 Brad Wleczerok
- 14 Greg Owens
- 15 Joshua Ferguson
- 16 Vasko Trpcovski
- 17 Paul Wheeler
- 18 Andrew Harper
- 19 Chad Mansley
- 20 Bradley Swancott
- 21 Peter Juchlewicz
- 22 Glenn Moore

Venue: Breakers Stadium
Friday 5 November 7.30PM

Head-to-Head: 15
Breakers: 3
Marconi: 10
Draws: 2

Last Week:
Breakers: 1-0 away loss to Falcons
Marconi: 2-0 home win over South Melbourne

LIVE SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 6.30 PM

OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 12

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v FOOTBALL KINGZ



- 1 Michael Utting
- 2 Che Bunco
- 3 Riki Van Steeden
- 4 Fabio Macolino
- 5 Jonathon Perry
- 6 Marcus Storglenoules
- 7 Wynton Rufer
- 8 Chris Jackson
- 9 Fred de Jong
- 10 Dino Menunilo
- 11 Robbie Middleby
- 12 Harry Ngata
- 13 Lovoni Osman
- 14 Batram Suri
- 15 Ivan Vicolich
- 16
- 17 Maciel Edmilson
- 18 Stuart Riddle
- 21 David Noya
- 22 Aaron Silva



- 1 Jim Kouritis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tsekentis
- 5 Scott Ballie
- 6 Ante Juric
- 7 Zlatko Aramkasic (above)
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Smezc
- 13
- 14 Gabriel Mendez
- 15 Lindsay Wilson
- 16
- 17 Paul Kohler
- 18 John Kyriazopoulos
- 19 Nick Carlo
- 20 George Bomboutsos
- 21 Lee Miot
- 22 Peter Zorkas

Venue: Belmore Sports Ground
Sunday 7 November 6.30PM

Head to Head: N/A
Marconi wins:
South Melbourne wins:
Draws

Last Week:
Olympic: 0-1 away win against Spirit
Kingz: 3-3 home draw with Wolves

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